

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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Articles for January Mustard Seed Due: **December 10, 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	Resident Bishop
Rev. Joan Miller	joan@stmatthewmesa.org	Pastor 480-838-7309
Rev. James Ek	jim@stmatthewmesa.org	Associate Pastor 602-377-9434
Gordon Gauss	g_gauss@hotmail.com	Stephen Ministries 480-234-2330
Becky Kerr	Becky@stmatthewmesa.org	Sunday School Coordinator 480-940-3379
Evelynne Showers	evie@stmatthewmesa.org	Office Manager/Design Publication, Nursery Coordinator 480-838-7309
Michael Isaksen	isettled@cox.net	Custodian 480-292-4165
Ted Bachelder	ted@stmatthewmesa.org	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.

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

M^{The}ustard Seed



December 2015

Celebrating Our Family Meet Steve Childs

I was born and raised in Salem, OR. I graduated from North Salem High School in 1968. I spent a lot of time outside playing ball, and other activities, until we were called in for dinner. My dad was in the Navy (WWII, Korean War, and Reserves) when I was too young to remember all of the moving around the U.S. We went back and settled in OR when I was about 2 ½. He worked for Allstate Insurance corporate office in Salem until he passed away at the age of 40 due to a service connected injury. I was 13 at the time. I built and raced soap box derby cars when I was 14 & 15. Then worked after school in a restaurant until I graduated. I began taking classes at Lane Comm. College the next year. While going to LCC the draft was initiated; I had a very low draft number guaranteeing I would be drafted. I took all of the tests for the Air Force and after a couple of months was sent off to basic training, assigned to Williams Field Air Force Base. That's how I ended up in AZ (thanks Uncle Sam)

I decided to stay in AZ. I was because I was dating my future wife (Carol) and had a job waiting for me here in AZ. Carol and I married in March 1976. We have two daughters, Carrie & Stephanie, both were born and raised in the same house in Mesa that we have lived in since 1978. They attended Mesa schools and graduated from Dobson high. Carrie graduated from NAU and Stephanie from ASU. Carrie lives in Chandler with her husband Nick and her two sons, Victor is 7 and Max is 2.

I retired three years ago from the insurance business

but I continue to work part time as a Senior Director Consultant for BNI, the world's largest referral networking organization. I have been a part of BNI for almost 20 years and it was a huge benefit to helping me grow the insurance business. Now I help other businesses utilize the program to grow their business. I also do some marketing for my good friends Lee and Kelli Weatherby at Accurate Automotive in Mesa.

I'm pretty handy around the house and enjoy fixing or repairing as much as I can. Carol and I also spend a couple of days each week taking care of our grandsons.

Carol and I came to St. Matthew in 1981 when our daughter, Carrie, was two. We were looking for a church with good opportunities for childcare and Sunday school programs. Obviously we liked what we saw as we have been here ever since.

St. Matthew was a place for our daughters to be involved and the youth program was awesome. (thanks Becky Kerr)

Currently neither of us are on a committee at church as we are both taking a break. We both help out with "Habitat for Humanity", and are both involved in other activities that keep us busy full time. I have served on the Board of Trustees, as an usher, on the Finance Committee, helped in Sunday school, and ran the church blood drive for 13 years.

I would like to see St. Matthew become a vibrant church once again with all age groups. Unfortunately we have become an older church with very few young families. Bringing Becky back into the fold is great.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! With the beginning of Advent on November 29, we have moved into a new Christian year. I thank God for the privilege of moving into this new year with you.

As the calendar year of 2015 comes to a close, I offer thanks for all the work that our outgoing officers have done. **Dennis Anderson** and **Judy Garza** are rotating off the Finance Committee. **Pam Beihl**, **Eric Stout** and **Al Mallard** are completing terms on our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). Although we trust **Bill Cox** will continue caring for the fountain and flowers, he is formally completing his term with the Trustees. **Duane Kiddoo** is rotating off the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee, but will continue on SPRC. **Wayne Douglas** and **Susan Lewis** are ending terms as our Lay Members to Annual Conference. I appreciate all the ways that each of them has shared their gifts and graces with us all.

Thanks also to **Mark Culbertson** for his service as our youth coordinator during the past year. Mark resigned in early November. I know that his coordination of the youth trip to Orlando this past summer was greatly appreciated by everyone who participated. We all certainly wish him and his family well. **Deb Landry**, our Staff Parish Relations Chair, **Pastor Jim Ek**, and I met several weeks ago with some of our youth and their families to listen as we prepare to move forward.

I hope you were as inspired, as I was, by our look last month at John Wesley's sermon on "The Use of Money" and James Harnish's incorporation of Wesley's ideas in his book, "Earn, Save, Give". Our Stewardship Team – **Callie Miller**, **Laura Miller**, **Colleen Mueller**, and **LeRoy Hirsch** – did a great job in leading us as we reflected on our relationship with money, what Wesley described as a "most excellent gift."

We voted at our Church Conference in late October to reorganize our operational structure in 2016. Although the administrative committees of the church including Staff Parish Relations, Trustees, Finance and Nominations and Leadership Development remain unchanged, we are creating Nurture, Outreach, and Witness ministry teams to plan and carry out the church's mission of making disciples in the name of Jesus Christ. The hope is that we will spend more time engaged in doing ministry

rather than in meetings. As with anything new, this will be an evolving process. Even as we remember and celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace this Christmas, we are reminded by the terrorist attacks in Paris that we live in a broken and hurting world. I appreciated the civil conversations that **Pastor Jim Ek** and **Iain Glithero** facilitated and others participated in around the study, *Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities*. I wish you all the love and peace of Christ this Christmas and pray that we may all be part of making Christ's kingdom dream a reality. In Christ's love,
Joan

Sermon Plan for December 2015

December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas Gifts: Peace
Luke 1:67-79
Question:
To whom can you give God's gift of peace?

December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent

Christmas Gifts: Joy
Luke 1:39-45
Question:
To whom can you give God's gift of joy?

December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cantata: The Sanctuary Choir

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 p.m. - Children's Program
with Children's Choir and Hands of Praise Choir

7:00 p.m. - Contemporary Worship
with Praise Band

9:00 p.m. - Traditional Worship
Communion and candlelight
with Hands of Joy Choir

11:00 p.m. - Traditional Worship
Communion and candlelight
with The Sanctuary Choir and Bells of Joy Choir

December 27 - First Sunday after Christmas

Christmas Gifts: Perspective
Luke 2:22-38
Question:
Where in your life do you need new perspective?

December Calendar

Dec. Repeat Events:

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

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
5:00 pm Hands of Joy Choir, Chapel
7:00 pm Putting God 1st AA, C6-7
7:30 pm The Sanctuary Choir, B14

Thursday, December 3, 10, 17
6:30 am Men's Bible Study, IHOP
9:30 am Korean Bible Study, B11
Pastor's Study, C4
3:00 pm AZ Messianic Prayer, AC
6:00 pm AZ Messianic Dance, AC
Cool Hands Choir, D22
6:15 pm Children's Choir, C1
6:30 pm Genesis Bell Choir, Sanctuary
6:45 pm Childcare, Nursery
7:00 pm Bells of Joy Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, December 4, 11, 18,
10:00 am Childcare, Nursery
Yahweh Yoga, AC
5:30 pm Praise Band Practice, AC
7:00 pm Putting God 1st AA, C6-7

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

Sunday, December 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 Class, B11
Sharing Disciples Adult Class, B14
Youth "Ignite", D23-24
3:00 pm AZ Messianic Dance, AC
7:00 pm Putting God 1st AA, C6-7

Monday, December 7, 14, 21, 28
8:00 am Communicator and e-Communicator deadline
6:00 pm 853 Boy Scouts, AC, C6-7
Hands of Praise Choir, D23-24
7:30 pm Victory Praise, C1-3

Other Dec. Events:

Tuesday, December 1
9:00 am Morning Glory Breakfast Out
6:00 pm HOV Adult Grief Support, C3
6:30 pm Mission Committee, D22

Thursday, December 3
6:00 am Women's Bible Study, C4
7:00 pm Worship Committee, B11

Saturday, December 5
8:30 am Trustees Meeting, C4
4:30 pm Childcare, Nursery
TnT Group, (18-39 Yrs) D23-24

Sunday, December 6
8:30 am UMOM Gift Cards, Patio

Monday, December 7
2:30 pm 841 Girl Scouts, D23-24
7:00 pm Adult Bible Study, C4

Tuesday, December 8
6:00 pm Finance Committee, C4
6:30 pm Shining Jewels Team, AC
7:00 pm UMW Christmas Party, AC

Wednesday, December 9
7:00 pm Evangelism Comm., D22

Thursday, December 10
6:00 am Women's Bible Study, C4
8:00 am Deadline for January Mustard Seed Submissions
evie@stmatthewmesa.org
7:00 pm Stephen Ministry, B13

Saturday, December 12
9:00 am Helping Hands, C6-7

Sunday, December 13
8:30 am Chayah Ministry, Patio
UMOM Gift Cards, Patio
2:30 pm 841 Girl Scouts, D23-24

Monday, December 14
5:00 pm Emmaus Group, B11
7:00 pm Adult Bible Study, C4

Tuesday, December 15
6:00 pm HOV Adult Grief Support, C3
6:30 pm Church Council, C4

Thursday, December 17
7:00 pm Alzheimer's Support, B12
SPRC Meeting, B11

Other Dec. Events:

Saturday, December 19
9:00 am The Sanctuary Choir, B14, WC

Sunday, December 20
8:30 am Chayah Ministry, Patio
9:00 am Cantata - Sanctuary Choir, WC
2:30 pm 841 Girl Scouts, D23-24
3:00 pm Hands of Joy Choir Concert, WC

Monday, December 21
7:00 pm Adult Bible Class, C4

Wednesday, December 23
Office Closed



Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve - Office Closed
5:00 pm Children's Program, WC
6:45 pm Childcare, Nursery
7:00 pm Contemporary Service, WC
9:00 pm Traditional Service, WC
11:00 pm Traditional Service, WC

Friday, December 25
Merry Christmas to Everyone!

Sunday, December 27
2:30 pm 841 Girl Scouts, D23-24

Monday, December 28
Christmas - Office is Closed
5:00 pm Emmaus Grouping B11
7:00 pm Adult Bible Study, C4

Thursday, December 31
New Year's Eve - Office Closed

Mesa Community College

Mesa Community College Planetarium is offering a free evening on Friday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. to children and adults to come learn all about the stars.

A: 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; **pl**: parking lot
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: Dutton family, Tan Lim family and Whitehurst family 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 - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - noon & 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

2015 December Prayer for Churches

You are encouraged to pray for the churches and pastors of the Central East District of the Desert Southwest Conference. You may also want to send a note letting these churches know you are praying for them. First UMC, Mesa, First UMC, Tempe Gold Canyon UMC and Journey UMF, Maricopa

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Tuesday December 1 has been designated as UMC Giving Tuesday through The Advance. The Advance is a voluntary, designated program of the UMC through which you may support mission programs or mission personnel with financial gifts. Again, UM are invited to extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season. Last year UM collectively raised \$2.5 M online. As always, when you give through The Advance, 100 percent of your gift directly benefits the ministry

your designate. Overhead costs are covered through other channels. The gifts given after 10 pm from Monday, November 30 through 10 pm on Tuesday, December 1, will have a better chance of being doubled.

There are several ways that you can give. Online, Phone, Mail and by making a donation through St. Matthew. To give online go to: www.umcmision.org/give. In the text of "By Online," you can click on "Give online now." If you give online, you must designate a mission or missionary by number. Africa Univ. 3021028 Native Amer. Children 583581 Ardell and Gordon Graner, Dominican Republic 10836Z Feed My Starving Children 171282 Yours, in Christ's Love Ben Furlong

UMOM Christmas Gift Cards



Do you have someone on your Christmas list that does not "need" another gift? A UMOM Christmas gift card is perfect for a boss, co-worker, teacher, elderly person, or anyone who would be pleased that you donated a gift in their honor for the homeless. You receive a Christmas card, a blank mailing envelope and an insert describing the gift. The gift donations are- \$15 for a night of shelter for an individual, \$50 for one day of shelter, food and childcare for a child, \$100 for a week of shelter for an individual, \$360 for a month of shelter for an individual. The Mission committee will be selling the cards on the patio in Dec. For more information contact Ben Furlong, 480-993-3333 or Ginny Smythe 480-892-8083.

UMOM Friday Night Dinners

Thank you to the following groups for serving in November: Denise and Bob Allen, Jerry Van Rennes & the Choir and, Greg & Pamela Beihl. December servers will be: Laura Miller, Barb & Bill Hedges, and Callie Miller. The Missions committee looks forward to sharing this experience with you in 2016. We have done an excellent job of sharing God's love and gifts in the year 2015.

Christmas Donations

The "**Christmas at Juvenile Corrections**" table will be on the patio, Sundays, Dec. 13 and 20 to distribute the wish list for the youths' facility-approved Christmas gifts and to collect items from those lists that you are able to donate. There will also be a large Christmas-wrapped box in the entry of the activity center for gift item drop-off.

These gifts are a great blessing to the youth, helping them understand that those of us on the "outside" have not forgotten them. You may also donate extra unused Christmas cards, without envelopes, please, which we will distribute to the kids on Christmas morning with their gift bags. They love receiving "mail"! Merely sign the cards with your first name(s) only. Leave your gifts in the boxes by Sunday, December 20, 11:30 a.m. or leave them in the box in the Activity Center lobby as late as Tuesday, December 22 at noon. I will be taking the gifts to Adobe Mountain School that afternoon. Call me with any questions at 602-717-2537, or email me at PattyEk2.0@gmail.com for a copy of the list of allowable gifts. Blessings, Patty Ek

Save the Date – Christian Leadership Development – Saturday January 9

You are invited to learn more about the vision for our reorganization and discover what leadership in the church means. Join us for a Christian Leadership Development day on Saturday, January 9. Our Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is planning the event to be held in the Activity Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided as well as childcare so let Evie know in the church office by Monday, January 4 if you plan to come.

Prayer Team

If you wish to be in prayer for others you are invited to join our St. Matthew Prayer Team. Please email Pastor Joan at joan@stmatthewmesa.org to be added to the team. Requests for prayer are sent out via email as they are received.

2016 Administrative Committee Officers

Staff Parish Relations Committee

- 2016 - Heidi Peabody, Debra Landry (Chair), Jennifer Webb
- 2017 - Kim Gibbons, Duane Kiddo, Dick Crane
- 2018 - Kermit Clark, Dennis Dunning, Ruth Dales

Lay leaders Betsy Hertzler and Barb Hedges, and Lay members to Annual Conference Steve or Carol Childs

Trustees

- 2016 - Bob Allen, Lynn Edmanson, Jim Barle
- 2017 - Scott Miller, Leroy Livingston, Dave Gann
- 2018 - Patty Ek (Chair), Karen Palmieri, Kevin Allen

Finance

- Chair Callie Miller
- Pastor (\$) Joan Miller, Jim Ek
- Lay member (\$) Steve and Carol Childs
- Church council chair Denise Allen
- SPRC rep Debra Landry (or appointee)
- Trustees rep Patty Ek (or appointee)
- Lay leader Betsy Hertzler, Barb Hedges,

Finance continued

- Financial secretary Colleen Mueller
- Treasurer Betty Heston
- At-large members Becky Jackson (2016) Ed Hoag (2016) Virgil Dutton (2017) Laura Miller (2017) Dave Scott (2017)

Leadership /Nominations

- 2016 - Sherry Twitchell, Luke Snell
- 2017 - Judy Scott, Ray Fuller
- 2018 - Rosemary James, Judy Garza

Pastor Joan Miller (Chair) and Jim Ek, and lay leaders Betsy Hertzler and Barb Hedges

Other elected at Church Conference

Lay leaders

Barbara Hedges, Betsy Hertzler

Lay Servant

Greg Beihl

Lay Members to Annual Conference

Steve and Carol Child

Wayne Douglas, Alternate Susan Lewis, Alternate

Church Conference

Denise Allen

Nurture Ministries Team Leader

Gordy Gauss

Outreach Ministries Team Leader

Ben Furlong

Witness Ministries Team Leader

Bimal Dey

Lay Leader Notes

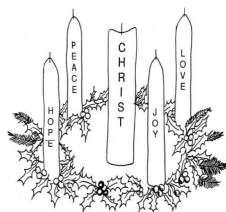
Dear St Matthew Family,

The season with the greatest reason is upon us once again. I for one am looking forward to it as usual with great anticipation. Our home will be celebrating Christ Giving on Thanks-mas this year with our children and their families who live here. Bill and I will be in the Dominican Republic on Christmas with his six remaining siblings and their spouses to also celebrate his brother and sister-in-love's 60th Wedding Anniversary. What a treasure for the family. All our calendars are already getting full to overflowing with things we need to accomplish for the Holiday Season. Our church family has many wonderful plans to remind us of our Dear Savior's birth. We will be decorating the church as well as our homes. We will attend and host many functions that make this season so memorable. We could easily get frazzled and miss the true meaning of Christmas if we allow ourselves to become ill or even just over tired.

In Beth Moore's study "Beloved Disciple", she strongly reminds us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Psalms 127:2 says, "It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives sleep to His beloved." In Mark 6:30-32 - Christ insisted His disciples got rest. I don't think Christ just meant for us to get plenty of sleep, I think as Beth suggests that we give ourselves pure rest, consisting of refreshment and recreation. She calls it taking "Sabbath Moments". Keep in mind this Christmas should be full of joy for the season. Oh yes, perhaps time for sorrow due to a memory of someone who has gone home to Christ. Be careful that we do not allow ourselves to become overwhelmed because we didn't take time for our gift from God - our Sabbath Moment. When what we are doing does not keep us in the wonder of the season take your Sabbath Moment and show the world what a joy it is to be filled with the love of Christ.

Merry Christmas and God Bless us everyone,

Barb Hedges Co Lay Leader



Lighting of the Advent Candle

During the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve, we have the lighting of the Advent Candle and a short scripture reading. It is our tradition to have a family, a couple or friends take part in the service. If this is a way you would like to be involved in Advent, please call Evie at 480-838-7309 or email Evie in the church office at: evie@stmatthewmesa.org. The scripture will be emailed to you prior to your date or you can stop in the church office. The times and dates are 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. on the following Sundays: December 20 and 24. (Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and 13 filled) December 24, Christmas Eve at: 7:00 p.m. Contemporary service, 9:00 p.m. Traditional service, 11:00 p.m. Traditional service. Thank you for your willingness to serve. Worship Committee.

Christmas Poinsettias

We will be decorating the Worship Center and Activity Center with poinsettias again this year. If you would like to order please call Evie in the church office at 480-838-7309 or email Evie at: evie@stmatthewmesa.org. Cost is \$12.00 per poinsettia. Please make check payable to St. Matthew UMC and put poinsettia plant on the memo line. We ask that you list no more than 4 names, In Honor of; or In Memory of; Deadline for ordering is Monday, December 7.



Hands of Joy Sign Language Choir

Hands of Joy Sign Language Choir invites you to their annual Christmas Concert on December 20 at 3:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Come, see and enjoy the sounds of Christmas as can only be seen through beautiful sign language. Hear some new songs of the season that will thrill your heart and fill your spirit. Bring your friends and family to discover anew the joy of Christmas. Childcare will be provided in the church nursery.

Adopt-A-Family Program

Once again St. Matthew's Sunday School will be sponsoring the Adopt-A-Family program. We would like to help families from the Wesley Center/Golden Gate Community Center and UMOM as well as those in the local community have a blessed Christmas. You, Christmas angels, can bring God's love to these families and help make it a bright holiday for them. A list of food items is available in the church office and posted on the outside bulletin boards. Please bring food, hygiene items, and select an angel from the tree in the narthex by Sunday, December 6. Make sure the angel you choose is attached to your wrapped package. We plan to deliver gifts by December 15. Please see Becky Kerr for information. Thank you, St. Matthew Christmas angels!

UMW Christmas Celebration

Would you like to hear some great music, eat some fantastic treats and enjoy fellowship with friends? Please join the UMW in our annual Christmas Celebration on Tuesday evening, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Center. The St. Matthew Bell Choir will be entertaining us with Christmas music and our UMW leadership will be providing delectable desserts. With your help UMW would like to make Christmas a little brighter for some of God's Children. We are collecting donations to support St. Matthew ministries such as Wesley/Gateway Community Center, Helen's Hope Chest and Justa Center. The Gateway Community Center is in need of soccer balls. Children's clothing in all sizes, books or toys are needed by Helen's Hope Chest. Justa Center can always use underwear or socks for men or women in all sizes. Boxes will be available for each mission to collect your unwrapped donations. May the Spirit of Christmas be with all of you this holiday season and hope to see you on December 8.



Habitat for Humanity

Finally some news! The mighty coalition has agreed to build a home in Peoria stating in February 2016. The details and exact information will be coming soon. Please save some Saturdays from February to May, so you can join the fun on the site. Thank you, Duane Kiddoo

Meet Our Sunday School Teachers Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

Stephanie Beamsley has been a member of St. Matthew UMC for 16+ years. Stephanie has worked in the Customer Contact Center of United Blood Services for 19 years. Stephanie loves working with children and started teaching in the hope that she would be able to help children learn more about God and the wonderful things that happens because of Him. She continues teaching because the children have taught her more about God than she had hoped to teach them. "I've learned more about patience, kindness, love and giving because of the children. To see God through the eyes of the children is truly a wonderful blessing."

Carol Powell has been a member at St. Matthew for 30 years. She is married to James Crawford Powell II. James is a synthesizer player in the Praise band at Contemporary service on campus. They have 2 sons, J.C. and Brandon. Carol was a substitute teacher in four different states. Now, Carol has worked for Toyota Financial Services for the last 10 years. Carol enjoys working with children. I love hearing what they have to say. I have fun doing crafts with all the children.

Autumn Schmitt has been a member of St. Matthew UMC for 8 years. Autumn is a student at Arizona State University. Autumn likes teaching Sunday School because it gives children an experience with God as well as with their peers. "It allows children to connect with God and each other; and use what they learn throughout their lives."

Rebekkah Tomaszewski and her family were members of St. Matthew UMC 15 years ago. She is a member of Song of Life Church. Rebekkah works for Fry's Foods as an Assistant Front End Manager. Rebekkah likes teaching Sunday School to children because, it's important to have kids get excited and learn about Jesus, when they are younger. Once they understand the connection with God, they can carry it throughout their lives.

