

### From The Pastor's Desk

When was the last time God performed a miracle? Did they end when Jesus was crucified? Many people believe that miracles don't happen anymore. And most people reading this would probably concur. We don't see many miracles these days and most of the ones we see or hear about can be explained by worldly means.

Gabriel was born with a rare skin condition, Icthyosis, also known as crocodile skin. When she was born her body was engulfed in a cocoon of skin that was thick and tough. The doctors had to spend hours cutting away skin just so she could open her eyes, mouth and ears. It was three days before her mother got to see her for, upon birth, she was taken directly to surgery.

I had the opportunity to meet her a year ago. Her grandmother is one of my mentors in my doctoral studies. Gabriel is a very lovely little girl whose spirit just shines below her thick layers of skin. Every so often they have to take her in for surgery because the skin engulfs her fingers and toes making them webbed. It is difficult for her to walk and she missed the first few years of school because of her condition.

A year and a few months later I got to see her again. That would be while I was in Atlanta the week prior to this writing. She is eight years old and is a very smart and lovely little girl. She came by to see her grandmother and grandfather, my mentors, since they were in town for a doctor's appointment. The grandparents live in Kansas currently but are moving to Atlanta so they can be closer to their children and grandchildren. This lovely family walked into our conference room. Gabriel was with her older sister and younger sister, both very pretty little girls. She was not shy but said hello to the class.

What a little trouper. But here is the last place I saw God work a miracle. While her arms were still covered with crocodile-like skin her face was now as smooth as any little girl could ever ask for. She is now in school and doing very well. She is even caught up with the rest of the kids her age. God has worked a miracle on this precious little girl's face. We prayed that God would continue to heal her but, whether he does or doesn't, He has already transformed her to a place where people can see the beauty that is within.

God still works miracles every day. We just need to learn to see them. We just need to see where God is working around us and join Him there. Gabriel's parents and grandparents would cherish your continued prayers for her healing and in expressing the joy for what they have already received.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Ron*

## Words about Worship

By Gayle Tatum

As the leaves turn vibrant shades of red and gold and the air has a bit of a nip to it, we turn our minds to thoughts of praise and thanksgiving. God has richly blessed us as a church this year. We have many reasons to give thanks. It has been many years since sales in the pumpkin patch topped \$20,000.00! The weather was beautiful in October and the reported shortage of pumpkins (?) led many to our patch to shop. Just think how much we could have sold if we hadn't run out of pumpkins on the Friday before Halloween!!

As Ron's series on *Experiencing God* continues throughout November, we also turn our minds toward planning the financial future of St. Matthew. Last week's Experiencing God Bible study was on faith. One of the questions raised was "What would happen if we budgeted on what God wanted us to do instead of on what we *thought* our church could do?" It is an interesting, but rather frightening concept. How often do we limit God because we are thinking in human-size terms instead of God-size terms? God doesn't ask us to act on our own. He asks us to allow him to do His work through us. There is a huge difference there. Let's think "God Sized" thoughts this year.

November 21 is what I refer to as a "High Holy Day" at St. Matthew. District Superintendent, Rev. Dan Pulver, will be with us for the 11:00 am service. The Spirit Singers will sing *Write Your Message on my Heart* during the service. Our annual Charge Conference will convene immediately following worship. If you want to know what has gone on during the past year at St. Matthew, you really need to attend Charge Conference. It is like a state of the union address for the church. Important decisions are made, such as approving budget items for 2011. I always leave energized because of all the things I had forgotten about until being reminded via the committee reports.

The 2010 Monk Awards ceremony will be 4:30 pm November 21. In addition to honoring our faithful servants, entertainment will be provided by the Spirit Singers, the Chancel Choir, Way Band and our children. A gala reception will follow the ceremony. The highlight for me is the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

November 28 is the first Sunday in Advent. Unbelievable!! It can't possibly be that close to Christmas -- but it is! Alpha Omega Youth will lead us in a Hanging of the Greens service during the 11 am service. Be sure to come to Family Fun Night on November 19, 6:30 pm, and make an Advent wreath for your family. Sara Fisher, Children's Coordinator, will have all the needed materials on hand.

Take a moment and make a gratitude list. Write down all the things for which you are thankful. The resulting attitude of gratitude makes life more satisfying than to dwell on the bad stuff. Say a prayer of thanks to God that we live in a nation where we can freely worship God in any way that we choose. Thanks be to God!!

See you Sunday in worship.

Shalom,  
Gayle



In This season of joy,  
We celebrate God's greatest gift,  
Love.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Dimski  
Request the honor of your presence at the  
marriage of their daughter

Katlynn Mae  
to  
Ryan Edward Henderson

son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Orville Henderson  
Saturday, the Eleventh of December  
At half past six o'clock in the evening  
St. Matthew United Methodist Church  
300 North Air Depot Boulevard  
Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110

Please RSVP by November 15th  
[www.mywedding.com/ryanandkatlynn](http://www.mywedding.com/ryanandkatlynn)



## Thank You

Dear St. Matts,  
Your very generous donation of food was a blessing to our food programs at ZIMC. The community need is growing faster than our church pockets!! But God has a plan that we are all a part of. Thank you so very much!

Donna Bassham and Douglas Blvd.  
ZIMC



### PRAYERS

**John & Mel Bjorgen** Missionaries in Belize. Their base and apartment were damaged by Hurricane Richard. They have 2 small children and are struggling with clean up.

**Natalie Mahaffay's niece** born by emergency c-section at 32 weeks. 2.2lbs but she is breathing on her own.

**Bobbie Walker** having tests done at MWC hospital

**Duane Ramsey** stage 3 cancer

**Bill Barker** prostate cancer – tests for treatment

**Polly Dobbs** fell in bathroom. She was recovering well from her surgery until the fall.

### SYMPATHY

**Family of Chuck Sears** (Sam Kinard's Uncle) who passed on Oct. 25.

**Family of Ed Bodenheimer** who passed after his fight with cancer.

### Cancer and Other Extended Illnesses

Cathy Baradell, Mike Barlow, George and Pearl Bartlett, Cynthia Benson, Darrell Bieker, Bonnie Bower, Barbara Branch, Hazel Burch, Beverly Caringella, Kevin Childress, Tom Crawley, Joe Davis, Peggy DeBound, Kathy DuMond, Michelle Dupuy, David Dwyer, Vivian Ellis, Jeannie Fluke, Rachelle Fullbright, Chris Gress, Joshua Hader, Steve Hamlin, Bruce & Marie Hankins, Dr. Van Henson, Lynn Hester, Janet Hopkins, MacKenzie Holman, Ron Holston, Susan Hutchinson, Mildred Jones, Joel Kaufman, Loyd Kelley, Ann Kilman, Ardith Larsen, Janet Lewis, Glorianne Lovett, Kenneth Maeten, Kathy McClary, Jim Miller, Walt Nessel, Brenda Newton, Gloria Odom, Cindy Peavy, Joe Perkins, Ann Philips, Mark Robinson, Matt Rogers, Barbara Sandini, Patsy Shepherd, Joyce Sparger, Mary Ann Spragins, Steven Tanner, Don Tarigg, Loyce Tatum, Casey Maples Taylor, Roxanne Thomason, Diana Thomsen, Curt Truel, James Wolitarsky



"Thank You" Church family

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes during my recent surgery; also to all who visited in the hospital and after I got home. I enjoyed all the beautiful cards, gifts and calls I received. Also a big thank you to Pastor Ron and all my friends who sat with my family while I was in surgery and recovery room.

My St. Matthew family is very important to me and I love and appreciate you all.

Polly Dobbs

# Alpha Omega News

November 10, 2010

St. Matthew United Methodist Church  
Student Ministries

The purpose of Alpha Omega Student Ministries is to stand on the foundation, with a heart to worship, a mind to reach out and hands to serve and love.

## Fall Retreat 2010

November 12th-14th  
Friday 5:00pm-  
Sunday 12:00pm

Things you need to know!

- We will be going to a hockey game Friday night so please do not be late!
- You will need warm clothes that CAN get dirty
- Toiletries
- Sleeping bag, pillow, and extra blankets
- If you have a tent please let me know
- Warm clothes,
- Gloves, socks,
- Closed toed shoes,
- Ear muffs etc.
- A set of ALL BLACK clothes
- Flash light FLASH light FLASH LIGHT!!
- Please bring a Snack to share
- A fold up chair if desired (to sit around our camp fire in)
- If you have questions please don't hesitate to ask!

Parents, we are going camping in God's great wonderland this weekend! But only for one

Melissa Thompson ~ Director of Student Ministries  
• 732-6831 ext. 207 • mobile 590-9259 •  
youth@stmatthew.org

Night! Friday night we will be going to a hockey game and returning to St. Matthew where we will spend the night. If youth can not come Friday but can come Saturday GREAT!! Please have them meet us at the church at 10:00 Saturday morning so we can load up and get ready for some real life camping!! Alpha Omega is providing the tents for our camping extravaganza, however, if you have one of your own that you would like to use please let Melissa know ASAP. We will be returning home sometime between 11:30 and 12:00 Sunday morning at St. Matthew UMC.

## Rise Worship

November 14, 2010  
Sunday 4:00-6:30  
\$5

St. Matthew is proud to be the host of Rise Worship on November 14, 2010!! Admission is \$5, this helps to pay for pizza and it also allows us to donate to our charity. Rise Worship is a YOUTH based worship experience. All of North and South district are invited to come worship and celebrate God with us. We kick off the night with group games, have an interactive worship experience and then cool down with some pizza, drinks, and fellowship. We will be worshipping in Wesley Hall and fellowshiping in Fellowship hall. All are invited come join us!

Alpha Omega  
Student Ministries

Sunday School- 9:30-10:25  
& 11-12

Sunday Evening- 5-7pm  
Wed. Evenings- 7-8:15

Think Pink....

## High School Bible Study

So far this year our youth have experienced an in-depth discussion on addiction. We have covered many different drug types and have continually come up with the same answer; 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?" Our youth have come to conclusion time and time again that drugs and addiction simply do not honor our God the way we as Christians are called to do. Therefore, drugs should not be apart of their lives. We have also looked at warning signs and ways to help your friends if they are in need. We hope to be able to extend the loving hand of Christ wherever we can in our community. Please come join us if you wish to learn more about how the Bible deals with addiction and what you can do to make a difference.

## Stuff Your Baby!

The youth will be accepting donations for the City Rescue Mission from November 28- December 15th. We will be taking the donations to the City Rescue Mission Sunday December 19th at 5:00. Anyone that would like to join us in sharing God's love with our babies is welcome! We will be accepting Diapers sizes 5,6, and 7, baby oil, baby lotion, baby shampoo and wash, baby powder and wipes. Please leave donations in front office or Melissa's office.



Spread the Word

## Reminders

November 12-14	Fall Retreat
November 14	Rise Worship 4:00-6:30
November 21	Monk Awards Gayla and Cleanup 6:00-?
November 24	MP Bible Study
November 28	Hanging of the Greens
November 28	Youth 5:00-7:00

## Monk gayla and clean up

- \* The annual Monk awards are here! November 21 at 4:30. Youth are more than welcome to come cheer on this year's nominees!
- \* Youth will take place from 6:00- around 7:30 or so. You are more than welcome to come eat and celebrate with this year's winners and runners up! We also need your help!! Tables and chairs must be broken down and set up for worship on Sunday as well as clean up of the food, drinks, and anything else that might need a little tidied up.
- \* This is a great opportunity for service points. I hope to see you there. Please contact Melissa for more information.

## OG+E Offers Free Weatherization Program For Seniors



Free Weatherization Program for Seniors (65 and older) earning less than \$35,000 annually.

Qualifications include:

65 years and older, \$35,000 annually or less, OG+E customer, Own the home being weatherized, Resided in the home for a minimum of one year, and your home must be built prior to 2000 (no mobile homes).

Typical improvements could include the following:

Insulation; attic, floor, and wall, Window Sealing, Weather-stripping, Maintenance of HVAC, Hot water tank check-up, Thermostat settings, Lighting efficiency, and Sealing the exterior siding.

Please call OG+E at 272-9741 or 1-800-272-9741 to see if you qualify today!



**Joe Perkins Food Drive** We are currently hosting a **food drive in honor of Joe Perkins**. Please bring your non-perishable food items to the church now through the end of November. All donations will be given to the Mid Del Food Pantry in Joe's name.

## Volunteer Opportunity

Midwest City Neighborhoods in Action and the Midwest City Grants Management Department need your help. We are reaching out to clubs and organizations in our community to help us find people willing to donate their time to a good cause. We are in need of volunteers for our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program for the upcoming 2010 tax year. Volunteers prepare free federal and state income tax returns to low-income citizens.

Free training will be provided in January of 2011 or on-line via the IRS Link and Learn website. Basic tax returns are prepared using tax software and submitted electronically. Volunteers are asked to work 4 - 8 hours each week. The VITA program plans to operate Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm, February 1st thru April 14th.

We would not be able to meet the need of our community and have a successful program without the help and support of organizations such as yours. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. Please contact me, Ashley Stephenson, at 739-1221 if you are interested or have any further questions.

Ashley Stephenson  
CDBG Planning Assistant  
Grants Management Department  
City of Midwest City



**St. Matthew is accepting applications** for the position of Administrative Assistant. If you are interested in applying, please submit your resume with references via email to Pastor Ron at [revronp@stmatthew.org](mailto:revronp@stmatthew.org), or mail them to the church in care of Rev. Ron Perceful.



## Christmas "Goodie" Sale

Sunday, December 19 will be our annual Christmas "Goodie" sale at St. Matthew. The proceeds from the sale will go toward scholarships for persons wanting to go on mission trips that may not be able to afford it otherwise. Help is needed to provide the "goodies" to sell, to set up the day before, and to man the table the day of the sale. Examples of items needed are: small cookies, fudge, and chocolate covered pretzels. This year we are also requesting goodies that **diabetics** can eat along with copies of the recipes. If you can help out, please sign up on a sheet in the narthex or by the office or talk to Susie Larsen or Diana Hughes.

## Third Annual Monk Awards

Plan to don your "Sunday Best" and celebrate the servants of St. Matthew. Our third annual **Monk Awards** will be held November 21 at 4:30 pm in the sanctuary. A gala reception will be held immediately following in Wesley Hall..



## Dave Ramsey Financial University

If you are interested in participating in the 13 week Bible Study for Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University at St. Matthew in January, please let Wendee Perceful know as soon as possible. You can reach Wendee at 732-3818 or 473-2764.

## Pumpkin Grants Applications Now Available

The 2011 Pumpkin Grant applications and renewals are now available by contacting Gayla Wilson at 951-2252 or 391-5443.

The grants application period will close 12/31/2010 at 5:00 pm. All grants must be sponsored by a St. Matthew member unless the applications are from another local United Methodist Church.

The monies available have been donated by many persons for the specific purpose of reaching out beyond our walls to bring Christ's presence to those who are not actively or knowingly receiving God's grace. Applications will be evaluated with that charge in mind



## Pumpkin Patch Wrap Up Meeting Nov. 18.



Help us make the patch even better next year. If you have any ideas, suggestions, changes you want to see made, or just want to tell us what a great job we did this year, please come to the Pumpkin Patch Wrap Up meeting on Thursday, November, 18th at 7pm. All committee chairs and weekly captains are asked to come. If you cannot attend but would like to have input, please contact Diana Hughes at [dmfhughes@cox.net](mailto:dmfhughes@cox.net) or 769-3652 or Eddie Schriewer at 769-4030 or Gayle Tatum at the church before the meeting.

## "Thank You" from St. Mattie's Attic

All of us who worked St. Mattie's Attic at the Pumpkin Festival want to thank all of those who donated items and all of those who bought items, and Midwest Regional Hospital Gift Shop for their contribution.

A Special "thank you" to David Hughes and his crew for removing the furniture from the Parlor and to Eddie Schriewer for returning the furniture to the Parlor. We appreciate all your help and support!!

Polly Dobbs	Ruth Wilson
JoAnn Howell	Lona Jones
Sharon Wallace	Nancy Walker
Carmaleta Eastham	Karen McQueen
Edna Simpson	Mary Wedemeyer



2 Dorine Jones	16 Renee Frye
Wendi Ramsey	Ben Glass
4 Jimmy Heath	Ron Perceful
Albert Willoughby	Barbara Wallace
5 Jesse Bain	18 Kyle Van Auken
Kayla Heath	19 Chase Dealy
Marlene Welch	Debbie McDonald
8 Analee Harper	20 Tom Miller
Ryan Ruston	Joshua Pray
9 Betty Quartey	Jerry Stuart
April Schriewer	Bob Unruh
10 Bill Case	23 LaRue Alexander
Glen Dresback	24 Dick Davis
Diana Heath	26 Daniel Ruston
11 Rebecca Crusoe	Kruz Simons
Jeremy Frutchey	27 June Chiles
12 Jason Rowley	Chris Gibson
Frank Thomsen	28 Loren Smith
Donnie Webb	29 Maddie Ellis
13 J. Mitchell Simons	30 Travis Barnett
14 Brandon Blakeburn	Angie Ceyler
Paulina Covington	31 Pat Foster
15 Barbara Ann Burch	Emily Moore
16 Justin Casula	Paul Smith
Christopher Elbah	

## Pumpkin Patch Thank You

Thanks to all of you who worked the patch this year, "Pumpkins With A Purpose" had a terrific year! Even being essentially sold out of pumpkins on the 29th of October, we had the best sales since 2001. I especially want to thank the committee chairs, the patch weekly captains, Gayle and Lisa from the church staff, and my assistant coordinator, Eddie Schriewer, for making the job of patch coordinator an easy and smooth one. This year we had 123 shifts of two or more people working each one of those. So, many, many thanks to those of you who cheerfully came to work at a last minute notice, those who worked several shifts, those who worked any shift, and those who prayed. You are all helping those in need in our community. Thank you for being a part of God's work! Net profit was over \$6000.00.

## "Thank You" from the Bake Shop

**A huge 'Thank You' to all who baked, helped in the bake shop, and bought goodies. We sold out for the first time!!**



**LaRue Alexander**