



From the Pastor's Desk



Brothers and sisters-

As I sat down to write this newsletter article, I looked out my window and saw rain. More rain. Like, it's been a week and it won't stop raining! It's been raining so much that I'm not even sure what the sun looks like anymore. Lately, the world just seems like it's permanently darker than it ought to be.

Let's be honest: that's probably true in a lot of areas in our lives. It goes far beyond weather. Our world often seems darker than it ought to be. It can seem like a place where light is just a memory, where despair and isolation and sorrow have free reign. It can seem like a place without hope.

Today I challenge you to consider the meaning of the cross. Why do people look to it, of all things, for hope? I mean, it's an ancient torture and execution device. Most of us don't wear electric chair necklaces around our necks. So, why the cross?

You will reach your own conclusions, but here are some thoughts I have: Jesus' resurrection changes EVERYTHING. What once stood as a symbol for oppression and death, now serves as a beacon for hope and life. Through Jesus, God brings life to dead things. Through Jesus, broken things are made well. Through Jesus, the hopeless are given hope. That resurrection power can bring transformation to your life if you trust in it...eternal life.

But there's more. As Christians, the Resurrection empowers US to bring life to dead things, to make broken things well, and to give hope to the hopeless. As the body of Christ, we are called to live out the life of Jesus. If that seems like a daunting task, remember that the same power that made the Cross a symbol of hope will be dwelling in YOU. Don't underestimate the good you can do; to do so would be to underestimate the one who conquered death itself.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."- Galatians 2:20

When the world seems dark, don't forget that Jesus brings light. And since the very Spirit of Jesus dwells in those who follow him, **YOU BRING LIGHT WHEREVER YOU GO AS WELL**. It might seem dark right now, but the sun is gonna rise.



Words About Worship
From the Director of
Music Ministries



May is one of my favorite months! There is a celebration every weekend! The first weekend in May is our annual St. Matthew Family Camp. Worship continues as usual with both services here at home. Holy Communion will be served in both services. Our own Rev. Anita Poole Endsley will be our guest pastor. If you are staying here instead of going to camp, *please* make it a point to come to your favorite service. Kathy Harris is guest pianist, and Ella McDonald is leading the music. Thank you for stepping into the gap!

May 14 is Mother's Day. At St. Matthew, we recognize that Mother's Day doesn't have the same meaning for all of us. A close friend of mine would not attend worship on Mother's Day because she was unable to carry a child to term. The idea of honoring women just because they have had a child was very painful for her. For this reason, we honor *every* female in attendance. Everyone from the youngest to oldest receives a gift because everyone *has* or *had* a mother.

May 21 is Graduate Recognition Sunday. If you have an child or grandchild graduating from high school, or receiving an undergraduate or graduate degree from a college or university, we want to recognize them. Kalyn Roark is collecting information. Time is short, so contact Kalyn ASAP! There will be a brunch for graduates and their families at 9:40 am in Wesley Hall. Please call the church office (405-732-6831) and tell Kalyn the number of guests attending the brunch. If possible, graduates are asked to wear their graduation gowns during the service. Caps are optional.

Confirmation Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, **May 28!** There will be 5 Confirmands joining the church that Sunday. Please attend and show your support for these young people as they continue their faith journey.

Shockingly, we Christians didn't invent Pentecost. It is actually a Jewish Holy Day. On Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples were gathered together in one place. "Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." (Acts 2:1-4 NRSV) All of the devout Jews from many nations were bewildered and amazed, because they heard the disciples speaking in their language. Some of them accused the disciples of being drunk. Pentecost is considered to be the birthday of the Church.

May 28 is also Memorial Day weekend. If you are in town, please come to worship and wear **Red**, the color of Pentecost.

This is a busy, busy time of year. If you are in town, please join your church family in worship. You may be the blessing that someone needs that day.

Email gtatum@stmatthew.org
for questions about music ministry.

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum

Alpha Omega News



Graduation Sunday

It's that time of the year again!

Graduation is upon us and we want to celebrate our seniors! If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or close friend graduating, we want to know! Whether it is from high school, college, graduate school, etc. we celebrate ALL graduates!



On May 21st, we will have a brunch in their honor, then during the 11AM service, we will honor our graduates.

Graduates being honored will need to bring their gown to be worn during the service! If you would like your graduate honored in this service, please email

Kalyn at youth@stmatthew.org with the following information:

-Graduates Name

-Where they are graduating from

-What their degree is in

-What they plan to do after graduation

-One photo in their cap and gown and a second casual photo

All graduates who wish to be included need to submit all information by May 14th

Want to Volunteer?

We have many opportunities to hang out with our youth and help shape the future leaders of our church! If you are interested in volunteering in the following areas, please let Kalyn know!

-Mystery Trips, Lock-Ins, and other special events

-Wednesday Night Activities

-Sunday School

-Sunday Night Activities

Upcoming Events:

- May 5th-7th: Family Camp
- May 13th: Mystery Trip
- May 17th: Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- May 21st: Graduation Sunday
- May 28th: Confirmation Sunday

Mystery Trip

Our make-up mystery trip will be on Saturday, May 13th! We will meet at the church at 8AM and be back by 1:30PM.

Youth need to bring/wear:

-Closed toed shoes

-\$20 - please bring what you are able to cover costs; for financial assistance, please see Kalyn

We will provide breakfast and lunch

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

3 John 1:4

Summer is almost here!!! Our last WOW for this school year is May 17th! We'll celebrate the end of school with a fun night, hopefully lots of play outside.

For the first time in several years VBS is BACK! We will be doing a shortened VBS July 26-28. To do this, we'll need everyone's help! Please join us May 24th @ 6pm for a short meeting on VBS. If you're not able to make the meeting, but are willing to help, please email Katelynn@stmatthew.org.

AT ST. MATTHEW, OUR MISSION IS TO SHOWER GOD'S LOVE UPON OUR CHILDREN

**SO THAT THEY WILL KNOW:
GOD LOVES THEM... UNCONDITIONALLY.
CHURCH IS A WONDERFUL, SAFE PLACE TO BE.
STORIES OF JESUS.**

WILL YOU ANSWER THE LORD'S CALL AND BE A PART OF THIS MINISTRY?
CHRIST HAS NO HANDS BUT YOURS.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

MAY

- 7-Family Camp (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)
- 14- Muffins with Moms @ 10am
- 17-Last MidWeek/WOW before Summer Break
- 24-6pm-VBS Meeting

MUFFINS FOR MOMS

May 14 @ 10



This is to honor ALL the ladies in our church, because if by birth or by spirit, in our church family you are a mom!

Contact Information:

Katelynn Henderson

405.740.4379

children@stmatthew.org

**WEEKLY
ACTIVITIES**

SUNDAYS

Sunday School-9:45am
Children's Church during 11am Service
*No Children's Church 1st Sunday of the Month

WEDNESDAYS

WOW 6:30-7:30pm NO WOW AFTER MAY 17th for Summer

LIBRARY NEWS



May 2023

from Terri

18th ANNUAL ST. MATTHEW SUSPENSE CONTEST

Can you believe it is time to sign up for the 18th Annual St. Matthew Suspense Contest? I never dreamed when we started the contest it would still be going strong nearly 20 years later. Many things have changed over the years, but one thing hasn't – you still get to read some great Christian Suspense novels.

The books have already been chosen and I know I say this every year, but we've got some great titles! In fact, this year we have 2 brand new authors and one is going to make Susie Larsen very happy!

Our crime solvers range from profilers, to sheriffs, to a wealthy mysterious hero.

All I need now is 12 volunteers to serve as reader judges. Judges read 4 books in 4 weeks. Remember, the contest is limited to the first 12 people who sign up, so hurry and sign up now – the contest starts the first Sunday in June. You'll definitely want to be a part of our 18th year!

Contact Terri via messenger on Facebook or email her at Westieplace@cox.net.

2023 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Valarie Autry	Eric Autry
Jackie Elk	Rebecca Hartmann
Dayna Heath	Katelynn Henderson
Vickie Kinsey	Larry Kisner
Susie Larsen	Beverly Link
Karen Marichal	Ella McDonald
Joyce Perkins	Ashley Poole
Donna Rader	Kaye Rhoades
Kalyn Roark	Kay Ross
Emily Robinson	Stacey Ruston
Jayna Sims	Marilyn Solomon
Carolyn Specht	Barbara Wallace
Cynthia Weldon	Terri Weldon

They're reading the greatest story ever told!

ATTENTION DOG LOVERS!!!

The library now has a copy of *A Dog's Journey* by W. Bruce Cameron. He's written numerous dog stories and they're all great! Stop by and check this one out today.

THANK YOU, CAROLYN SPECHT!!!

Carolyn Specht generously donates 4 *Love Inspired Suspense* books every month. These books are a quick, but suspenseful read. Don't let the small size of these books fool you, some great authors write for them: Lynette Eason, Elizabeth Goddard, Jessica Patch, and Tina Radcliffe just to name a few. The latest titles are in the acrylic holder on the center of the table. Check one out today! Carolyn, thanks for helping to S-T-R-E-T-C-H our library budget.

NEW SUSPENSE NOVEL!

Love to be spooked while reading? Then try out *The Haunting at Bonaventure Circus* by Jaime Jo Wright. Realtor Chandler Faulk discovers clues to unsolved murders of the past and is pulled into a dark and haunting story. If you prefer not to be so scared try *Woman in Shadow* by Carrie Stuart Parks. A woman off the grid finds herself involved in a mystery! Check one out today.



stephen
MINISTRY.

ST. MATTHEW STEPHEN MINISTRY TEAM

April 30, 2023

Commissioned in the 8:30am Worship Service:

Beverly McDaniel

Travis Barnett

Commissioned in the 11am Worship Service:

Debra Hynek

Emily Robinson

Kalyn Roark*

Susie Dealy

Previously Commissioned Stephen Ministers:

Carolyn Specht

Dave Hughes

Kathy Ellis

Stephen Leaders:

Diana Hughes

Joyce Perkins

*Kalyn will be using her training in her role as Youth Director.

Are you going through a difficult time?

Are you adjusting to a new job, a change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, a recent move—or just experiencing a difficult time in your life?

THERE IS NO NEED TO STRUGGLE ALONE!

Consider allowing a Stephen Minister to walk with you on your journey to wholeness.

Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, to share God's love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you maybe experiencing, God does not intend for you to struggle alone.

Do you know someone...

Perhaps a friend, neighbor, co-worker, colleague, or relative, who could benefit from this type of care? Or even yourself?

THEN CALL...

One of the Stephen Leaders listed below. They can tell you more about Stephen Ministry and how you—or your friend—might benefit from being matched with a Stephen Minister.

Diana Hughes (405) 850-9678

Joyce Perkins (405) 306-1569

May at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

May 2	6pm	Trustees
May 4	8am	TEFAP Truck
May 5-7		Family Camp
May 13		AO Youth Mystery Trip
May 13	8am	Men's Breakfast
May 14	10am	Muffins for Moms
May 15	6:30pm	Finance
May 16	7pm	Lydia Circle
May 17	5:30pm	LAST MidWeek Meal before Summer Break
May 21		Graduation Sunday
May 28		Confirmation Sunday
May 29		Memorial Day-Church Offices Closed

For a more complete list of events and activities visit stmatthew.org/calendar



May 1	Eric Autry
	Everett Henderson
	Bill Mitchell
May 3	Valarie Autry
	Kerry Solomon
May 10	Kelly Stephens
May 11	Doris Bruce
May 13	Matt Mathis
	Mike Rathke
May 21	Princess Arkoh
	Brett Ruston
May 23	Susie Larsen
May 24	Bonnie Moyer
	Mark Murphy
	Walter Tiernan
May 26	Jack Tanksley
May 28	Vickie Kinsey
May 30	Katie Shelton

Week at a glance

Sunday	
8:30am	Worship
9:40am	Christian Discipleship Classes
11am	Worship (w/ LiveStream)
5pm	AO Youth Group
Monday	
1pm	Mobile Meals Prep
Tuesday	
7am	Mobile Meals
10am	Quilters Sew&Go
1pm	Moving For Balance
6:15pm	Toastmasters Meeting
7pm	Okie Dokie Banjo Band
Wednesday	
5:30pm	Midweek Meal
6:15pm	Spirit Singers
6:30pm	Midweek Classes, WOW and AO Youth Group
7:15pm	Choir
Thursday	
10am	Mobile Meals
1pm	Moving for Balance
6pm	OK Scottish Pipes & Drums
Friday	
7am	Mobile Meals Prep
Saturday	
9:30am	Girl Scouts

MIDWEEK
@ S T . M A T T ' S
Food, music, and Bible study for all ages every Wednesday @5:30 PM.

Summer Break starts after May 17th! See you back in August.

VBS MEETING!

All hands on deck for VBS 2023!

Join us for a meeting Wednesday, May 24th at 6pm for a short meeting to help plan. This will also help let Katelynn know the time of day to hold VBS! Can't make it to the meeting, but willing to help?

Email Katelynn@stmatthew.org!



May 3	Charles & Noreen Tinsley
May 14	Chris & Karen Baker
May 17	Andrew & Robyn Wilson
May 18	Aaron & Susie Larsen
May 21	Bill & Darlene Case
May 22	Ron & Mitzie Dixon
May 23	Dean & DeAnna Wiltfong
May 27	Brian & Becka Ellis
May 28	Jake & Kalyn Roark
May 29	David & Diana Hughes
May 30	Todd & Susie Dealy

Have an announcement that needs to get out to the church? Please email katelynn@stmatthew.org. She can make sure it gets in the correct weekly update, bulletin, and, if needed, announced on Sunday morning!



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 N Air Depot Blvd
Midwest City OK 73110
www.stmatthew.org
405-732-6831

*The Mission of The United Methodist Church
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

**T H E
WORSHIP
P R O J E C T**

**Save the Date
June 8**

The worshipers at St. Matthew are our ministers. These are the staff members who support them:

St. Matthew Staff

- Rev. Jonathon Clinesmith** Pastor
e-mail: jonathon@stmatthew.org
- Stephanie Ballow** Business Manager & Nursery Director
e-mail : businessoffice@stmatthew.org
- Diandra Nelson** Young Adult Director
e-mail : dnelson@okumc.org
- Kalyn Roark** Director of Student Ministries
e-mail: youth@stmatthew.org
- Katelynn Henderson** Director of Children’s Ministries
& Program Director
e-mail: katelynn@stmatthew.org
- Gayle Tatum** Director of Music Ministries
e-mail: gtatum@stmatthew.org
- Susie Larsen** Spirit Singers Director
e-mail: spiritsingers@stmatthew.org
- Emily Robinson** Organist/Pianist
- Drew Andrews** Custodian
- Louise Barnett** Financial Secretary