

Does Baptism Matter?

When the Protestant Reformation exploded across Europe, individuals began to question the veracity of church traditions. Martin Luther's life and writings prompted questions about the traditional views of salvation with his claim that salvation is “by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, as revealed in Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone.” This view assaulted generations’ old traditions that claimed salvation was by faith plus works as administered through the sacraments of the church. The traditional view was salvation is by grace through faith plus the seven sacramental works of the church: Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Confession, Marriage, Holy Orders, and Last Rights. These rites provided the recipient with tangible evidence that generated confidence in their salvation. However, participation in these sacraments also creates a false sense of hope because a person can get baptized and go to confession without ever engaging the heart. These sacraments also produce the detrimental effect of faith in the church or in individual effort or in the work of an earthly minister while diminishing the true object of our faith which must be Christ and His work on the cross.

As Luther opened the debate concerning the essential truths of Christianity, many looked to the Scriptures to ascertain the orthodoxy of these traditions, including the sacrament of infant baptism. From Switzerland emerged a group known as the Anabaptists. The prefix “ana” – meaning re (or repeat) was given to the group as a term of derision – “re-baptizers.” They were the most persecuted group during the Counter Reformation. They were persecuted by Catholics and Protestants alike, because they believed that baptism should be applied only to individuals who have received Christ as their Savior and Lord. We have much in common doctrinally with these predecessors to Baptist life. The most famous Anabaptist was Menno Simons. Mennonites trace their lineage back to him.

My favorite Anabaptist from church history is Michael Sattler. In the midst of the Reformation, Sattler left his post at a monastery in the Black Forest in Germany. Fluent in Latin, and possibly a working knowledge of Greek and Hebrew, Sattler began to study the Scriptures. Finding much of the Reformation theology consistent with the Bible, he went in search of likeminded theologians. He was arrested in Zurich in November of 1525 at the bequest of Zwingli, the founder of the Reformed Church Movement. Sattler was eventually released and banished from Zwingli’s region. He travelled to Schaffhausen where he affirmed the Anabaptist doctrine and was baptized, having become convinced from the study of Scripture that salvation comes through faith and that baptism is the outward sign identifying a person as a follower of Christ.

In 1526, Sattler began traveling and preaching in Germany, forming several house churches and writing several tracts designed to instruct new converts in the faith. On January 5,

1527, Felix Manz, another prominent Anabaptist leader, was executed by drowning in Zurich Switzerland at the hands of Reformed Church leaders. In addition to the natural fear that ran through the Anabaptist community, this event created a vacuum of leadership. Sattler stepped in to stabilize the churches. He crafted seven articles that formed the basic principles of faith for these churches. This set of articles became known as the Schleithem Confession. During the meeting to affirm this doctrinal confession, authorities from nearby Rotenberg, Germany discovered the gathering and immediately arrested all involved. Sattler and his wife along with a number of other men and women were taken to the tower of Binsdorf. From prison, Sattler wrote to his congregation at Horb. “Beloved companions in the Lord; the grace and mercy of God, our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord and the power of their Spirit, be with you, brothers and sisters, beloved of God.” In the final paragraphs of this powerful and touching letter he told his fellow believers, “And let no man take away from you the foundation which is laid by the letter of the holy Scriptures, and sealed with the blood of Christ...the brethren have doubtless informed you that some of us are in prison...at one time they threatened us with the gallows; at another with fire and sword. In this extremity, I surrendered myself, entirely to the Lord’s will, and prepared myself, together with all my brethren and my wife, to die for His testimony’s sake...hence I deemed it necessary to animate you with this exhortation, to follow us in the contest of God, that you may console yourselves with it, and not faint under the chastening of the Lord...for the Lord will probably call me to Him, so take warning. I wait for my God. God be with you all. Amen.”

The trial before 24 judges began on May 17. The Roman Catholic Church sent the wrong individuals for the trial, as most of them were trained in the arts and not theology. These untrained men were ill-equipped to handle this self-studied theologian and pastor. With great composure, Sattler answered the seven charges by refuting some charges as incorrectly representing his position and also embracing other charges by defending the Anabaptist position. In each case, he carefully and diligently appealed to Scripture, which he quoted extensively. Much as Stephen in Acts chapter 7, his composure only incited his condemners even more, such that they threatened to kill him on the spot. His response, “Let the will of God be done.”

Under the jurisdiction of Ferdinand, the Catholic King of Austria, the penalty for Anabaptists was determined to be “a third baptism” or death by drowning. Sattler had so graciously and gently confounded his accusers that rage swept the group. The execution order was so severe I am hesitant to record the details. “Michael Sattler shall be committed to the executioner. The latter shall take him to the square and there first cut out his tongue, and then forge him to a wagon and there with glowing iron tongs twice tear pieces from his body, then on the way to

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Daniel's Article</i>	1
<i>Leadership Training</i>	2
<i>PAW</i>	3
<i>20Somethings</i>	3
<i>Music Ministry</i>	4
<i>Library</i>	4
<i>Women's Ministry</i>	5
<i>Newcomer's Class</i>	5
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	6
<i>Kindergarten</i>	6
<i>Wednesday Night Dinner Menu</i>	7
<i>Week of Prayer</i>	7
<i>September Calendar</i>	8
<i>Discipleship</i>	8
<i>Weekly Events</i>	8
<i>Attendance</i>	8
<i>Financials</i>	8

the site of execution five times more as above and then burn his body to powder as an arch-heretic.” All of this was done to him. However, the first step in the process was not as successful as his persecutors had hoped. In the process of removing his tongue, a common sentence for heretics – for the authorities viewed them as sinning with their tongues; they failed to completely silence this great man of faith. From the town square to the place of execution he prayed with great composure for his executioners. At the place of the fire, Sattler proceeded to call all of the people and specifically the 24 judges who ordered his execution to repent and trust in Christ and be converted. His final prayer, “Almighty, Eternal God, You are the way and the truth: because I have not been shown to be in error, I will with Your help to this day testify to the truth and seal it with my blood. Father, I commend my spirit into Your hands.” On May 20, 1527, Michael Sattler joined a long lineage of Christian martyrs going all the way back to Stephen. He gave the good testimony, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One eyewitness said, “All this I saw myself. May God grant us also to testify of Him so bravely and patiently.” Eight days later, Sattler’s wife, despite herculean efforts to secure a recantment from her by the same group who killed her husband, was drowned near the spot where her husband was burned.

The impact of Sattler and his wife's brave confession in the face of such evil is still felt even to this day. There are many examples from church history in which to model our lives. One contemporary of Sattler writes, his “character lies clearly before us. He was not a highly educated divine and not an intellectual; but his entire life was noble and pure, true and unadulterated.”

Baptism is not an insignificant issue. It requires an obedient response by all who confess Jesus Christ. The message of baptism is one of identity. When we are baptized we associate ourselves fully with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. We say to the world, I belong to Him. I love His suffering in my place. I love His resurrection which brings me life. If this brings reproach, it brought reproach upon Him. We are called to obey the commands of Jesus Christ as He is our Lord. Let us follow Him faithfully. That call includes a call into the baptism waters, to full immerse ourselves in His death and resurrection. Our doctrinal ancestors from the earliest days of the church paid a high price for their identity with Christ in baptism. Many of them were persecuted. Some paid the ultimate price. If you have yet to be baptized as a public profession of Jesus Christ, why not? What is holding you back from making a public confession of His Lordship and authority over you?

Paul tells Timothy in I Timothy 6:13-16, “¹³I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.” May we keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ Daniel

(Article based in part on the outstanding historical summary by William Estep, *The Anabaptist Story* Eerdmans Publishing, 1996)

Leadership Training

Save the date:
Leadership Training 2013
September 21st!

SEPTEMBER 2013						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Leadership Training 2013
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Join us for our Annual Leadership Training
Saturday, September 21st

We invite all those currently serving on our campus, as well as those who think they might be called to lead in a ministry area or class. Please contact the church office at christy@matthewroad.org to sign up or if you have any questions.

Our tentative schedule is as follows:

- 8:30am: Breakfast
- 9:10am: Dismissal to Track One classes
- 9:30am: Track One classes
- 10:50am: Dismissal to Track Two classes
- 11:00am: Track Two classes
- 12:20pm: Dismissal to Lunch
- 12:30pm: Lunch and Key Note Speaker
- 1:30pm: State of the Church address
- 2:00pm: Dismissal

PAW Fall



Preschool Academy of Westchester (PAW) is a quality preschool program for children aged 9 months-5 years old. It is a time for both you and your children to enjoy. Your children will enjoy their classroom activities planned around our curriculum, "Wee Learn" (published by LifeWay). At our program, your child will learn about sharing, healthy living, academics, music, American sign-language, the Bible, manners, cooperation and giving.

Schedule: We are a Monday & Wednesday preschool. Our hours are 9am - 2pm. We begin school for the 2013-2014 school year on Monday, September 9th, and go through Wednesday, May 14th.

Tuition and Fees: Tuition is \$130.00 per month. There is an annual supply fee of \$75.00 and a registration fee of \$35.00 (non-refundable). Supply and registration fees are due upon enrollment. (*Sibling discounts are available.*)

Pease call Cyndi King, at 972-641-7380, for more information.

We have lot's of growing room for our 2 yrs old & under!

20Somethings



Who are we? We are... sinners in need of God's Grace, part of God's plan for the future, going to make an impact on the world for Christ; we aren't children any more, we are making the decisions that will effect the rest of our lives. We matter to God.

Retreat

When: October 11th - 12th
Where: Mt. Lebanon
What: The Doctors
Umstattd teaching
Cost: \$55
Mission Activity:
Do some much needed work on our church campus
See Rachel to sign up or if you have any questions.

Night of Praise

September 27

Common Grounds

6:00 PM

Praying Scripture

for the Twentysomething's Heart

For as I think in my heart (as I reason, reflect, speculate, and pray) so I am (and will become). Prov. 23:7a

Weekly Activities

Sunday:
Bible Study at
9:45 AM and 6:00 PM

Monday:
Lunch at Chick—fil-a
11:30 AM Camp Wisdom

Wednesday:
Discipleship 8:30 PM
Common Grounds

Last Friday Night of the Month:
Night Of Praise

20Something Passion Conference
February 14th – 15th 2014

Cost? \$200 (Includes hotel and conference) meals are additional

Who will be there besides us?
Francis Chan, Lou Giglio, Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, Matt Redmon, Beth More and others

(Deposit of \$50 due October 1, 2013)



Music Ministry

I am so excited about the fall semester at Matthew Road Baptist Church! All of our choirs are starting back up and we're already looking ahead to celebrating the birth of our Lord at Christmas. Here is our full rehearsal schedule. We hope that you and your family will consider joining us as we kick off a new semester with some new music and a few old favorites, too!



Adult Choir

We meet on Wednesday nights at 6:45 in the choir room. Join us as we worship together, encourage one another, and rehearse a little bit of music, too! There are no auditions and nobody will put you on the spot. If you would like to join us for the first time (or the first time in a long time) feel free to drop in on Wednesday night or contact our music staff in the church office for more information.

Proclamation (Youth Choir)

We are excited to announce that Zach Elkins will be leading this group for the fall semester! We will kick off on Wednesday, September 11 at 5:45 in the choir room. Students in grades 7-12 should come check out the new music, the new director, and new opportunities for service!

Children's Choir

Elementary age kids should plan to attend Children's Choir at 6:00 on Wednesday nights. Just like last semester, we will meet on the second floor of the education building right before AWANA. We have an outstanding leadership team who make sure that kids have fun while singing current praise and worship songs, learning timeless hymns in modern styles, and establishing a musical foundation that will last for a lifetime.

Instrumentalists

We are always looking for skilled instrumentalists on all instruments who would like a place to serve. Contact our music staff in the church office for more information.

It's beginning to look a lot like...

Finally, go ahead and mark your calendars. Our Christmas musical will be presented on Saturday, December 7, and will feature the drama team and all of our choirs. You won't want to miss this special day as we honor our Lord and remember His birth!

It is a joy to serve with you! ~ Jeff

Library Ministry

Bodie Thoene—"When Jesus Wept"

David Platt—"Follow Me"

Max Lucado—"Grace"

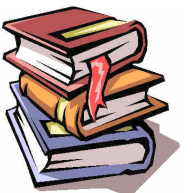
Children's

Curious George's Dinosaur Discovery

Curious George and the Puppies

Curious George Visits the Zoo

COME "CHECK OUT" OUR NEW SELECTIONS!



Fiction

"Damascus Count Down" by Rosenberg

"A Texan's Promise" and "A Texan's Honor"
by Al Lacey

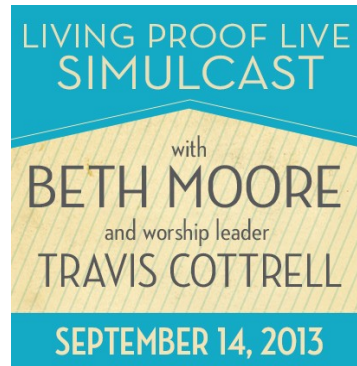
"Claudia: Wife of Pontius Pilate" by Taylor

Women's Ministry



Be a Sister of Strength! Take the time to strengthen a sister! Make a phone call! Send a card! Pray! Let us walk this life together!!!

Have a prayer request? Need more information about our Women's Ministry classes or events? Need to get in touch with our Women's Ministry Coordinator? Then contact us at our email address: womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com



Join Beth Moore, Travis Cottrell, and 250,000 women around the world for this live streaming event. Beth follows the leading of the Holy Spirit to prepare a specific message for each of her events, and the simulcast is no exception. Don't miss this special event!

The event will take place Saturday, September 14th, 8:30am - 3:30pm at First Baptist Mansfield. Lunch from Jason's Deli is included in the cost. Please meet at the church at 7:30am. We should be back at the church by 4:00pm. Cost: \$10

To Sign up, please sign up at the Welcome Desk, email Jennifer Howard at womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com, call the church office, or Jennifer Howard at 443-717-4152. If you are interested in attending, we need to know no later than Sunday, August 25th to be able to purchase tickets. Also, please let us know if you prefer turkey, ham or chicken salad for lunch.

Ladies Night Out is back!

Join us Monday, August 26th, at 7:00pm for Bunco in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a dish to share. If you have never played Bunco before, no worries as we will show you how. (September - November we will enjoy the same!)



New Comer's Class & Dinner



Since we have people attending our church from every type of church background, we have established an on-going class, which provides basic information about our church. We request that all new members attend this class. We also invite those who have not yet joined our church or rejoined our family, and wish to learn more about our church home. As a part of the class, we will explain what we believe, how we operate, our vision, and a little of the background of our church. This informal setting will allow the opportunity to ask questions and grow in your understanding of the ministries of our church.

Our next Newcomer's class will meet Sunday evening, September 8th. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk, or contact our church office at christy@matthewroad.org, or 972-641-2717, to make your reservation if you would like to attend. Childcare and dinner are included. Sign up today!!!

Children



Join us each Wednesday evening as we memorize God's Word, hear Bible stories, play games, and have a lot of fun!



Cubbies- 3&4 year olds
Sparks- Kindergarten through 2nd grade
T&T- 3rd through 6th grade
Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm.



MD² is back!

Join us each Sunday night as we play games and learn how to become "disciple-making disciples". This Fall, we will be studying the book of James!

Boys - Area 56
Girls - 4th Grade Room



Join us Sunday mornings, in the Education Building, at 9:45am as we meet as a large group to hear God's Word and then break into small groups for activities and discussion.

Matthew Road Kindergarten



Are you looking for an educational alternative other than traditional 5 day a week kinder?

Do you want to instill a love of learning in your child?

Are you looking for a kindergarten that still values *developmental learning?

Do you value a classroom with a low ratio and a teacher with 30+ years experience with kindergartners?

Are you wanting your child to learn Biblical principles?

Then we may be the kindergarten for you!!!

Matthew Road Kindergarten is a Tuesday and Thursday program.

Hours: 8:45am - 2:30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Cost: \$175.00/month

Curriculum: Academically integrated and developed to the individual needs of your child

Maximum Class Size: 12

For more information, contact Cyndi King @ 972-641-7380 or by email at cyndikking@msn.com

**"Developmental" or "child-centered" kindergarten involves a focus on inspiring a love of learning. Learning is still a big part of developmental programs, but it is learning in a more general sense. The organization of the physical space is very important and students learn through engagement with sand boxes, crayons, and other items in the room. In general, students are steeped in "experience" and learn through their senses. In addition, communication and social interactions are valued and important.*

Wednesday Night Dinner Are Back!



Join us on Wednesday evenings, at 5:30pm, for a time of food & fellowship. Not only are these dinners a wonderful time saver for our Wednesday night leaders, their families and our guests, but all proceeds are donated to the World Hunger Fund. Reservations are needed and greatly appreciated. **New Year = New List!** Please place your reservation at the Welcome Desk or contact the church office at jeannie@matthewroad.org or christy@matthewroad.org. **We will post the weekly menu in our announcement sheet (found at the Welcome Desk).**

Week of Prayer for Texas Missions

Last year WMU of Texas launched the tag line, “I am Texas missions” as part of the Mary Hill Davis Offering® promotion. The idea is that every Texas Baptist has a role to play in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in our state. It doesn’t matter your age, sex, ethnicity, or if you live in one of our huge cities or small rural towns. God can use everyone in his mission.



How do we know that? Because He tells us in Ephesians 2:10 – The Message
“He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does,
The good work he has gotten ready for us to do,
Work we had better be doing.”

The effectiveness of Texas Baptists in proclaiming the good news of Jesus is enhanced when everyone does what God has planned for them to do in:

- Prayer
- Giving
- Sharing
- Going

Our church will observe the Week of Prayer for Texas Missions September 8-15. A part of that emphasis is collecting the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions. Ask God how He desires you to be “Texas missions”.

September 2013 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, www.matthewroad.org, or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

- September 2nd:** Church Office Closed for Labor Day
September 3rd: First day of Kindergarten, see Cyndi
September 4th: PAW Work Day & Orientation, see Cyndi
September 6th: Youth TGIF, at the Hines home, see Zack
September 8th: Deacon Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room
Newcomer’s Class & Dinner, 5:30pm, see pg. 5 for more info
September 9th: First day of PAW, see Cyndi
September 14th: Beth Moore Simulcast, see pg. 5 for more info
Security Team Training, 9:00am, Fellowship Hall
Youth Council, 9:00am, CommonGrounds
September 15th: Kim Sweet’s SS Class Fellowship, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall
B&G Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room
Youth Parents Meeting, 5:00pm, CommonGrounds
September 20th: Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center, see Cyndi
September 21st: 2013 Leadership Training, see pg. 2 for more info
September 23rd: Ladies Night Out, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall, see pg. 5 for more info
September 27th: 20Somethings Night of Worship, see pg. 3 for more info

Discipleship

Sunday Nights:

- ♦ Trek Journey - CommonGrounds, 4:30pm
- ♦ The Study of Acts - Sanctuary, 6:00pm
- ♦ Ladies Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 6:00pm
- ♦ Adult Bible Study - Library, 6:00pm (ongoing)
- ♦ 20Somethings - 2nd Flr, Ed. Building, 6:00pm (ongoing)
- ♦ Guy Talk for youth - classroom behind coke machine in CommonGrounds Bldg., 6:00pm (ongoing)
- ♦ Girl Talk for youth - classroom to the right of the stage in CommonGrounds Bldg., 6:00pm (ongoing)
- ♦ MD² - Education Building, 6:00pm (ongoing)

Wednesday Nights:

- ♦ AWANA, 6:30pm, Ed. Building
- ♦ Collide (for youth), 6:30pm, CommonGrounds
- ♦ Adult Bible Studies, 6:30pm, Worship Center
- ♦ 20Somethings Bible Study, 8:30pm, CommonGrounds

Friday Nights:

- ♦ Bible Study at the Germer’s home, 7:00pm, see the Germers for more info

Regular Weekly Calendar

Sundays	
Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
Trek/Journey (Jr. & Sr. High)	4:30pm
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	6:00pm
7:17 Service	7:17pm
Mondays	
PAW Program	9:00am
Tuesdays	
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
Wednesdays	
PAW Program	9:00am
Proclamation Choir (youth)	5:45pm
Children's Choir (K - 6th grade)	6:00pm
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
AWANA Club	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:45pm
Adult Choir	6:45pm
20Somethings	8:30pm
Thursdays	
Bible Study (men & women)	7:00pm
Fridays	
In-home Bible Study (at the Germer's Home)	7:00pm
Saturdays	
Men's Coffee Group	7:30am

Financials Thru 8-9-13

Budget Income	\$539,846
Budget Expense	(553,689)
Net Budget	(13,843)

Average Morning Attendance for August: 373

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for August: 161