



The State of the Church

II Corinthians 2:1-5 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

In the US Constitution, there is a requirement that the President of the United States address congress in a State of the Union Address. "He shall from time to time give to Congress information of the State of the Union and recommend to their Consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient," Article II, Section 3 of the US Constitution. In the television era, this speech has become a big component of the political calendar. It functions more as political talking points that provide a laundry list for future legislation or initiatives or foreign policy programs than as a speech that actually evaluates the state of our country. The party that does not control the White House conducts their own state of the union speech to respond to the talking points of the State of the Union given by the President. Then, we are bombarded with the talking heads' evaluation of both speeches along with analysis and poll results to check the pulse of the nation with respect to all of this. In the end, I rather doubt we have any better assessment of the state of the union.

Periodically, it is a good thing to take a moment to assess the health of a church in order to provide information and to

recommend "such measures that are necessary and expedient." The church is not a democracy though we use some democratic procedures to help make decisions. The church should function as a theocracy where Christ is King and we simply do our best to follow His directions. The execution of this system of church governance challenges us, for Christ does reign supreme. Christ is the only true Sovereign of the universe. He is head of the church by the will of His Father. The challenge presents itself not in any deficiency in Christ but in the church. Sin, human weakness, the world around us, the battle with the devil and his minions make hearing our rightful King clearly, and following His instruction, quite difficult. But we must listen to Him. We must strive to seek His priorities for our church because He is our Sovereign. He is a loving, benevolent dictator. He is a loving bride-groom that seeks what is best for His bride, the church. In the assessment of the church, we must base what we think on His assessment. As a pastor, when I address the state of the church in this article, it is with trepidation. For all of us are prone to see things the way we wish to see them. But in doing this assessment, I am asking us to consider how Christ would assess us. What does our King think of the kingdom work in our domain?

Do we say we have a great ministry because of the strength of certain aspects of our leadership or programs or finances or facilities or communication abilities of preachers or musicians? Do we evaluate our church on the quality of teaching in various Bible studies or our development of future leaders or on our involvement in missions? Do we assess ourselves by counting people in worship services or at special events or in Bible study? All of

these things can be important markers of the underlying health of a church but none of them are sufficient markers of a healthy church. We have all seen even heretical churches grow or have big programs or persuasive teachers or gifted leaders. History is replete with examples of pastors with influential ministries only to discover later that there was unbearable immorality corresponding to all the outward signs of ministerial growth. How then can we rightly assess the ministry of the church if numbers, programs, teachers, teaching, missions, music, giving or facilities alone lack sufficiency in the task? We turn to the Bible. How does the New Testament evaluate the ministry of the church? Paul says of his ministry in Corinth, "I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God." II Corinthians 2:3-5. The power of God not the wisdom of men is the true measure of our ministry. Are we dependent on God for the ministry of the church? Or do we depend on our own abilities and knowledge and resources?

God has richly blessed Matthew Road Baptist Church. Our attendance over the last 13 years has gone from averaging 150 a week to well over 500 a week. We have engaged with missions in almost every part of the globe through our participation with other Baptists in the cooperative program and in our sponsorship of individual mission endeavors such as church planters and bible translators. We have engaged in missions by going to places like Sudan, Rwanda, other North African and middle eastern nations. We have continued to invest in places like India and Mexico with pastor training and evangelism. We continue to invest in future church leaders within our own congregation by following Paul's instructions to Timothy to take the things seen and heard from Paul and "entrust them to faithful men who can teach others." We have grown our internship program and continue to see God at work in the lives of these young adults. Our children, student, and collage aged ministries have grown. Our giving to kingdom work both here and abroad has increased substantially.

There are many other marks of a healthy church that I believe we see at Matthew Road. However, none of these external markers matter if we are not continually pursuing God in humility. We need Him. There is no kingdom work without submission to the King. There is not knowledge apart from the wisdom given by Christ. There is no good works apart from the work of Christ in us. There is no Gospel apart from the Gospel that brings glory to the Savior. There are no mission endeavors unless we are sent. As Jesus said to the disciples, "apart from Me you can do nothing." We must have right theology. We must pursue righteousness in our personal walk with God. We must pursue biblical standards for relationships in the home and in the church. We must seek ways to take the Gospel to every corner of the globe while seeking the lost in every corner of DFW. All of these efforts must be done, but none of them can be done apart from Christ. The life of dependence on Christ must govern each member of the church. The life of dependence on Christ must delineate the church from any other organization in the world. We do not accomplish this ministry through "superiority of speech or of wisdom"... so that our "faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God." I hope Matthew Road is a healthy church. I believe there are some things we can do to continue the patterns of growth, ministry, missions, and discipleship. However, this assessment of our church, this state of the union address, is not a list of new initiatives or a time to bask in the glow of some prior events. This assessment focuses on Christ and His power at work in us. We assess ourselves from His place as our Lord. We assess ourselves from our position of being His servants. May His power work in us as we lean completely on Him.

~ Daniel

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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: Dr. Rusty Umstatt 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

in October

Common Grounds

Time/Date TBA



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

By Janet Lynn Mitchell

Weekly Activities

Sunday:

Bible Study at

9:45 AM and 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Discipleship 8:30 PM

Common Grounds

Monthly:

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

We hope that you and your family will join us for fellowship and worship in our times of musical preparation this semester.

Fall Rehearsal Schedule:

Adult Choir – Wednesday nights at 6:30 in the choir room

Proclamation (Student Choir) – Wednesday nights at 5:45 in the choir room

Children's Choir – Wednesday nights at 6:00 on the second floor of the education building

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Getting To Know You

This newsletter marks the beginning of a new series that will help us get to know the musicians at Matthew Road a little better. Jeff Morris will kick things off this month.

What brought you to Matthew Road Baptist Church?

I moved to Texas to attend seminary in 2005 and began serving as a part time minister of music in Boyd. I married Bailey two years later after she graduated from college in Orlando and we've been in Texas ever since. As graduation grew nearer, I began to feel God leading me to consider full-time vocational ministry. We were excited about staying in the metroplex and are blessed to serve at Matthew Road Baptist Church.

What can you tell us about your family?

I am married to Bailey, my sweetheart from my youth group in Florida. She is in her seventh year of teaching elementary school in Burleson. We adopted the world's greatest dog, Maximus, from a rescue organization last January. My parents and one of my brothers all serve together at First Baptist Church in Plant City, Florida. My not-so-little-anymore sister is currently studying student ministry at North Greenville University in South Carolina. My other brother, Daniel, is a children's minister in North Richland Hills.

What are you reading?

Worship Matters by Bob Kauflin

Leading Small Groups With Purpose by Steve Gladen

What are you listening to right now?

Keith & Kristyn Getty: Live at the Gospel Coalition

Homeward Bound by Bryn Terfel

Zion by Hillsong United

Youth Ministry

I encourage you to send your student(s) to one of these Bible studies, as our focus is on Discipleship and equipping our students to spread the Name of Jesus!

Bible studies:

High School Guys @ Geisendorfs; Mondays 6:30pm - Led by Steve Clardy

High School Girls @ Christine Wehrli & Maggie Dean's; Mondays 6:30pm - Led by Christine & Maggie

Middle School Guys @ Kings; Mondays 6:30pm - Led by Andrew Snyder

Middle School Girls @ Wests; Thursdays 6:30pm - Led by Addison McCaleb

Athletes Bible Study @ MRBC; Tuesdays 6:00pm - Led by Zach

October 4th - TGIF @Tunells 2803 Ivy Glen Dr. Grand Prairie TX 75052 7:00pm-9:30pm

October 19th - Youth Outreach Bash -\$20 or \$1 each for the student and their unchurched friend - there will be a basketball tournament, prizes, trampoline park, trampoline dodgeball, and of course food! We are hoping to share the gospel and encourage the students to invite everyone they can! Matthew 28:19 sparks us to GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES!

October 31st - Youth will have a 'Youth Corner' in Fall Festival

~ Zach



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

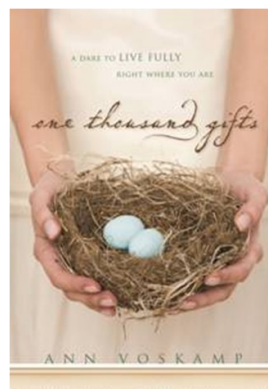


Ladies Night Out is back!
Join us Monday, October 28th, at 7:00pm for Bunco in the Fellowship Hall.
Bring a dish to share. If you have never played Bunco before, no worries as we will show you how.
(October - November we will enjoy the same!)

**Wednesday Night
Ladies Bible Study
6:45pm, Conference Room**



Here and Now...There and Then by Beth Moore is a lecture series on the book of Revelation. Beth presents many points of view, allowing women to decide for themselves when the interpretation varies among scholars. She teaches that God is as specific about what He does reveal as He is about what He does not reveal. Join us for this amazing time of reading through God's Word. Led by Kim Sweet.



Starting Oct. 3rd, Vicki Germar will be hosting a 5 week video series on "1000 Gifts" by Ann Voskamp in her home, at 7:00pm. Reading the book is not required, though you may find extra blessings doing so. **No childcare is provided.**

Questions or wish to sign up?
Please contact Vicki at dgermar@sbcglobal.net.

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

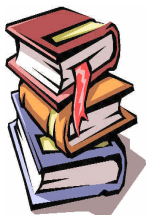


Join us **Sunday mornings, in the Education Building, at 9:45am** as we meet as a large group to hear God's Word and then break into small groups for activities and discussion.

Library Ministry

Bodie Thoene—"When Jesus Wept"
David Platt—"Follow Me"
Max Lucado—"Grace"

COME CHECK OUT OUR NEW SELECTIONS!



Children's

Curious George's Dinosaur Discovery
Curious George and the Puppies
Curious George Visits the Zoo

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

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

Fall Festival



Fall Festival is coming Thursday, October 31st, from 6 to 8 p.m.!

**Silent Auction, Bounce Houses, Train Rides, Games, Photo Booth, Climbing Wall,
Candy & lots, lots more!!!**

We also have a silent auction and concessions available for purchase.

Please, no scary costumes.

There are several ways that you can help with this event:

1. Sign up to work in a booth. Please see Rose for details.

2. Donate new or gently used stuffed animals.

3. Donate individually wrapped candy. We will need a lot of candy!

(Bins are located in the foyer, Education Building, and the Common Grounds for donations.)

4. Help set up on Saturday, October 26th, at 9:30am

5. Help set up on Wednesday, October 30th, at 6:00pm

6. Help set up on Thursday, October 31st, beginning at 9:30am

Please be in prayer for this event as we are preparing to reach out to our community. Sign up to volunteer at the welcome center or contact Rose Strachn at ps733@yahoo.com or 972-642-5396.

October 2013 Events & Activities

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

- October 3rd:** Young at Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am, see Phil
- October 4th:** Youth TGIF, 7:00pm, see Zach
- October 11th - 13th:** 20 Something Retreat, see ad on page 3 or Rachel
- October 13th:** Finance Committee Budget Review Meeting, 4:00pm, Teller Room
Deacon Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room
- October 18th:** Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, see Cyndi
- October 19th:** Youth Outreach Bash, 6:00pm, see Zach
- October 20th:** B & G Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room
- October 31st:** Fall Festival, 6:00pm, see ad on page 7

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
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Tuesdays

Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
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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

Fridays

In-home Bible Study (at the Germer's Home)	7:00pm
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Saturdays

Men's Coffee Group	7:30am
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Financials Thru 9-6-13

Budget Income	\$609,909
Budget Expense	<u>(624,324)</u>
Net Budget	(14,415)

Average Morning Attendance for September: 441

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for September: 205