



Introducing Brittany Harley, Children’s Minister

At Thanksgiving each year our family glues a picture representative of our year on our "thanksgiving box" and writes (or draws) letters of thanksgiving to place inside. We hope to read these letters each year as a way of remembering God's faithfulness to us. This year one of the letters written includes the story of God's call on our family to join and serve at Matthew Road. Our family is so grateful to be members and now on staff at Matthew Road. God is so good.

When I was seven years old, Jesus changed my life. At VBS, I felt a tug on my heart to respond to a call to follow Jesus. I am grateful to my family who faithfully prayed for me and I know when I believed in Jesus for the first time at seven years old, He plucked me from the path that I so easily could have taken and He gave me life abundant in Him. I am grateful to children's and youth leaders who faithfully disciplined me and invested in my life. I am thankful for their dedication to the ministries in which they served because God used them to shepherd and teach me for many years. I proudly graduated from Dallas Baptist University with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Psychology in 2006 after three wonderful years of learning and serving in Spiritual Life on campus.

I am now unique at DBU. I think I am the only student/alumnus of DBU who has lived on campus for ten years. Needless to say, I love DBU. DBU is my home and I am proud to raise my kids on its campus. At DBU, God added knowledge to my zeal and I met my husband, Jay, who currently serves as Dean of Students and Spiritual Life.

Jay and I met at DBU in the Spiritual Life department. I was nineteen when I entered his office volunteering to help

prepare for a month long mission trip to Swaziland (Southern Africa). Little did we know that God had a big behind the scenes plan for Jay and me. Two years after meeting and through serving together on mission trips and campus ministries, we knew God was leading us to commit our lives to serving Him together as a family. On our wedding day we vowed to trust in the Lord with all our hearts, lean not on our own understanding, in all our ways acknowledge Him and allow Him to direct our paths.

Since being married, Jay has acquired more responsibilities on staff at DBU and I have worked in education, community mental health, and ministry. We've also had two wonderful children. Jett is four years old and Caroline is 19 months old. Jett is a race car fanatic and He loves Jesus. He's the greatest big brother and he has a sweet tender heart for people. Caroline is a sweet snuggler who loves baby dolls, rearranging our house and imitating animal sounds. You may see Caroline come in and out of the church with a portable oxygen machine because she uses oxygen when she sleeps. She has a rare lung disease that God is using for His fame.

The world attempts to teach children how to live and be productive, successful members of society, to "be all you can be," "believe in yourself," and "follow your dreams;" however, Jesus' teachings are wholly opposite.

"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:24-25)

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Instead of teaching children how to live, be good, and be successful, we should be modeling for and teaching children to deny themselves, carry the burden of the gospel, follow Christ and lose their lives for His sake. We do this not through providing simply entertaining activities, although many of our children's programs are entertaining, but instead through gospel centered, disciple making programs that lead children to truly follow Christ and know the purpose for which they were made: to know, see, experience, and display God's glory for all the world to see. Jesus would not have said "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" if there were no children in God's kingdom (Matt 19:14); therefore, we, the church, whether we are parents or not, have the responsibility to raise up the next generation of Kingdom kids, not so we can see Matthew Road Baptist Church grow, but that we might have the joy of joining God in growing His Kingdom!

My prayer for the children's ministry at Matthew Road is the same for the whole church. I pray that we would humbly walk before the Lord begging that His Kingdom come, His will be done and that we might teach and encourage each other to live not for ourselves, but for Christ alone. "A little child believes with an unquestioning faith which makes everything vivid and real. Believe just so! The child believes in all humility, looking up to its teacher and receiving its teacher's word as decisive. Believe in Jesus just so! Say, "Lord, I am a know-nothing. I come to You to be taught. I am nothing, be You my All in All." (Charles Spurgeon, (No. 1925).

A Journey to Jesus



A Journey to Jesus

Your family is invited to join us
on a journey to Jesus.
Wednesday, December 18th
6:00pm - 8:00pm
We will journey through
the true meaning of Christmas.

There will be food, crafts, Fellowship,
and leadings from Daniel Sweet

This is a FREE event.
However, we do ask that you RSVP to
cyndiking@msn.com
Please feel free to invite your friends and family!

PAW Spring



Preschool Academy of Westchester (PAW) is a quality preschool program for children aged 9 months-5 years old. 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. It is a time for both you and your children to enjoy.

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.

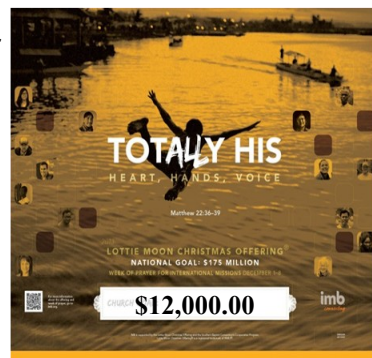
We have lots of growing room
for our 2 yrs old & under!

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

2013 Week of Prayer for International Missions Dec. 1st - 8th

Jesus says in Matthew 22:37-39, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself" (HCSB). As followers of Christ, we must give our all so people can know the love of Jesus. That's what being totally His requires: pouring ourselves out completely to be His heart, hands and voice — individually, as a church, as Southern Baptists working cooperatively to reach all the nations. We are part of the task to fulfill the Great Commission. And although Southern Baptists have been praying, giving and going for more than 160 years, the task is far from finished.

Pray for our Southern Baptist missionaries, who are giving themselves completely to Christ by sharing Him in dark places. And pray about giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® to sustain those we've sent to be our hands touching a lost world.



Christmas Candlelight Services



Tuesday, December 24th
5:00pm (with childcare 3 & under)
and 7:00pm (no childcare),
in the Sanctuary

Music Ministry

We will be taking a short break from all Wednesday choir rehearsals.

We will resume our regular rehearsal schedule on

Wednesday, January 15.

Watch this space next month for more info.

We hope you have a blessed Christmas and a happy new year!



Come join us as we celebrate
together this Christmas season!
You are invited to a musical
theater production of

"I Have Seen the Light"

presented by
Matthew Road Baptist Church
Saturday, December 7, 2:00pm & 4pm

Youth Ministry

December 20th - Christmas Party

At the Macon's (*Tacky Sweater Contest!)

December 27th - Youth Service Day

Mission Arlington, 9am - 11am

Ice-skating at the Parks Mall, 12:00pm

Cost: Free!



Bible studies:

High School Guys @ the Geisendorffs Mondays 6:30pm - Steve Clardy

High School Girls @ Christine Wehrli & Maggie Dean Mondays 6:30pm -(Christine & Maggie)

Middle School Guys @ the Kings Mondays 6:30pm -Andrew Snyder

Middle School Girls @ West's Thursdays 7:00pm -Addison McCaleb

Athletes Guys Bible Study @ SGP Thursdays 6:30pm

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



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.



Sat, Dec 14 from 9:00am – 12:00. We are going to be making feminine hygiene packs to meet the most basic needs of impoverished women and girls around the world. This will allow these ladies to continue to meet the needs of their families, their work and schooling without interruption, while also avoiding serious, even life-threatening, infection.

This ministry gives women the opportunity to share the gospel through meeting one of the most basic needs that is unique to women. At this time we hope to send the feminine hygiene packs to the orphanages we support in South Sudan and Rwanda. We will also have the opportunity to send these packs on future medical mission trips.

In addition to asking for volunteers we are also asking for monetary donations. Please see Connie Hebert, or contact her at 817-713-3959 or conniehebert@sbcglobal.net for more information or to sign up for this remarkable mission outreach opportunity.

Children

Fall in Review:

What a great fall we've had in the children's ministry! We have reached the book of Isaiah in our Gospel Project journey on Sunday mornings and the children have been learning about God's master plan of salvation for all people from the very beginning. AWANA clubs are in full swing and growing each week. Children are excited about hiding God's word in their hearts and record numbers of sections are being memorized each week! We have finished studying the book of James in our Sunday night discipleship groups (MD2) and we're looking forward to this month's study, Advent; Awaiting the Savior.

This Month:

In AWANA - We are collecting pre-packaged food items (macaroni & cheese is a favorite!) for kids who regularly receive free lunch at school and will not have food at home during Christmas break. We are also collecting pennies to donate to Santa Cop for them to purchase gifts for children in need. The theme night for December is on Wednesday, December 11. Children can dress up as Biblical character for "Bethlehem Night." We will not have AWANA on December 18, 25, or January 1. (See promotion about "Journey to Jesus" on Wednesday, December 18 for all families!)



In Sunday School - We will study the coming of our Savior on Sundays, December 15, 22 and 29 and then resume our journey through the Old Testament in January. On Sunday, December 15 we will have the special opportunity to see the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade Sunday school classes perform a Christmas Play during the Sunday school hour. Parents, you are welcome to join us in the Education bldg, first room on the left, to see your child perform. Those participating will rehearse at 8:30am on the day of the performance.

In MD2 - During the month of December we will study Old Testament prophecies, the genealogy of Christ, the Messiah's coming for all people, and God's unchanging plan for His Kingdom. Make sure your child brings his/her Bible every week as we study God's word together!



Parents,

Often times kids see us (parents) get frazzled during the Christmas season as we prepare for meals and parties and spend time decorating and shopping. Let's purpose together to make sure our children see us treasure Jesus Christ and truly celebrate when God Himself came to earth as a tiny baby in a manger! For ideas on making a meaningful Christmas focused on Christ, check out <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/holidays>.

In Christ, our Savior, Brittany

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 affect the rest of our lives. We matter to God.

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 \$100, due by Dec 15th - if no one signs up we cancel this event)



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

Night of Praise

January 31

Common Grounds

6:00 PM



December 2013 Events & Activities

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

- December 4th:** 20Somethings Christmas Party, 8:30pm, CommonGrounds
December 5th: Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
December 7th: Christmas Musical, 2:00pm & 4:00pm, Sanctuary
December 8th: Budget Vote in all 3 services
 Deacon Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room
December 9th: PAW Christmas Program, 7:00pm, see Cyndi
December 11th: Youth Christmas Caroling, see Zach
December 13th: Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, see Cyndi
December 14th: Woman to Woman, 9:00am - 12:00pm, Fellowship Hall
 Daniel's Sunday School Class Party, 6:00pm, see Daniel
December 15th: Phil's Sunday School Class Party, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall, see Phil
 B & G Meeting, 5:00pm, Conference Room
December 18th: A Journey to Jesus, 6:30pm, see ad for more info
December 20th: Youth Christmas Party, see Zach
December 24th: Church Office closed at noon
 Candlelight Services, 5:00pm (with childcare 3 & under) and 7:00pm (no childcare), Sanctuary
December 25th - January 1st: Church office closed for Christmas Holiday, will reopen Thursday, January 2nd

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

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
Wednesday Night Dinner	5:15pm
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
AWANA Club	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:30pm
20Somethings	8:30pm
Saturdays	
Men's Coffee Group	7:30am

3rd Quarter Financials

Budget Income	\$691,227
Budget Expense	(715,542)
Net Budget	(24,315)

Average Morning Attendance for November: 422

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for November: 193