



The Nature of God

“...Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ...” Exodus 3:10-15

There is something quite unusual about this theophany. God appears to Moses in a burning bush, a bush that is on fire but is not consumed. Beyond the sheer miraculous nature of this encounter, it seems God is communicating something about Himself in this dramatic appearance. The fire burns, maybe reflecting the holiness, purity, passion, intensity, and power of God. As the writer of Hebrews reminds us when reflecting on the reverence due to God, “Our God is a consuming fire.” However, in this case, the fire does not consume the burning bush. Is there something of the compassion or mercy of God reflected in this moment? “Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” (bush on fire) “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt...” (bush not consumed). Moses asks what any reasonable person would ask in an initial encounter with someone you don’t know. “What is your name?” In Jewish tradition, names carried great significance. “Abraham” means “the father of multitudes.” “Isaac” means “laughter,” as a continual reminder of Sarah’s response to the announcement that she would have a son at the age of 90. “Jacob” means “he who supplants,” an illusion to his birth and life of continually tripping up his brother. “Daniel” means “God is my judge.” “Elijah” means “Yahweh is God,” the very words this great prophet spoke on Mount Carmel in the presence of Israel during his great show down with the prophets of Baal. “Jesus” means “Yahweh is salvation.” God discloses His name to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM” or transliterated from Hebrew as “Yahweh” and translated as LORD in most English translations. God reveals His name and His name reveals essential

reality about God. God IS. He did not become. He did not evolve, develop, mature, emerge, or spring into being. He is absolute reality. He has authority over the Israelites in Egypt because He has absolute authority over everything. All things are contingent, meaning they have a beginning and a causal source acting from outside. Nothing exists in the universe that is eternal and self-sufficient. However, God IS. He IS WHO HE IS. He has always been completely and fully the “I AM WHO I AM.” Apart from Him there is no us. Apart from God there would have been no Egypt and no Israel. He is the absolute reality with whom we must all give an account. And God Almighty has just called on Moses to go back to Egypt for the liberation of the people of Israel. Moses had other plans. God is infinite, eternal, ubiquitous, omnipotent, omniscient and perfect. Moses was an eighty year old man with substantial failures and misgivings. The collision of these two radically different beings on a lonely mountain in the Sinai Peninsula provided the ultimate contrast in being and existence. That might explain why Moses is not so thrilled with God's assignment for him.

(NLT) “¹⁰But Moses pleaded with the LORD, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.” ¹¹Then the LORD asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹²Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.” ...” Exodus 4:10-13

Struggling with Our Inadequacy

After forty years in the wilderness, the now 80 year old shepherd received a monumental assignment. “Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” This must have been quite unsettling to Moses. He fled Egypt decades before with a murder charge hanging over his head. Plus, most 80 year olds are not in the mood for sudden career changes. Moses’ hesitance is understandable.



It is one thing to handle a few dozen sheep in the wilderness. It is quite another to corral a million plus humans into a new nation. For any of us, new challenges can create a feeling of inadequacy. We view our gifting as insufficient. We see the challenges in the task as too daunting. We consider the chiding from critics and cynics. Suddenly, we find ourselves like Moses saying to God, “Pick someone else for this task. It is too big for me.” God did not entertain the excuses from Moses for even a minute. He goes straight to the fundamental truth that He communicated in the prior chapter, Exodus 3. “I Am that I Am” made you. God tells Moses in chapter 3 that the very essence of being comes from Him. Now, Moses argues that the Great I Am is unaware of his human inadequacies. “Is it not I, the LORD? Moses said to God, “maybe you don’t know who I am.” God said back to Moses, “No, you don’t know who I am.” In this moment, Moses commits the same offense that most of us are inclined to commit, especially in the press of new callings. We revert to informing God about the situation, as if He were unaware. We assume our word on the matter settles it. We assume that the God of all Creation will adjust His plans now that we have informed Him about His poor planning. But, God will have none of this. We risk losing such incredible blessings when we walk away from God and fail to serve Him. We forget that He has His glory and our joy in mind.

If we could travel back in time to Mount Sinai, several months after the burning bush encounter, what would Moses tell us about his initial hesitancy to God’s calling? I think Moses would say that risking everything to follow God was worth it, despite the struggles along the way. In the end, if God sends us, it is His work and not ours. Frankly, we are in a much better place following God in difficult places than trusting our own power in easy places. He is the eternal God. We are His creation. When He calls, we must follow.

~ Daniel

Thank you!

Thank you our church family and friends for helping us bridge the gap and end our fiscal year so successfully. In September, we ended the quarter at (\$59,378). However, because of your generous giving, we ended the year at just (\$12,700)! We knew the Lord would provide for our needs, and He did, through all those who gave. We look forward to seeing how God works in and with our church family this year. Thank you again!



Men’s Retreat

The Life of Joseph: Prisoner to Prime Minister

The men of Matthew Road are invited to a study of the life of Joseph, which will take us through the book of Genesis.

The study will begin with a men’s retreat at Mt. Lebanon, in Cedar Hill, on Friday, February 6th, followed by an eight week study, which will take place from Sunday, February 8th, through Sunday, March 29th. Classes will begin at 5:30PM at MRBC, in the famed “Man Cave”.

For the retreat, we will begin with dinner at 6:00PM, on Friday, February 6th, 2015, and will dismiss the following day, Saturday, February 7th, between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Proverbs says that a lazy man does not roast his prey, so we will be having BBQ [just like last year] with plenty of rolls, skillet potatoes and cobbler; and we will also have breakfast and coffee for everyone Saturday morning.

The cost of the retreat will be \$20. Please RSVP with Joshua Lemmon or at the information desk; and bring the fee to the retreat. This will help us defray the cost of our food and lodging; however, if you want to attend, but cannot cover this cost, please speak with Joshua or Pastor Daniel, as we do not want this to hinder anyone from attending. For those attending the retreat, please bring your Bible, any bedding that you will need [sleeping bag and pillow is recommended] and your hygiene gear.

Come join with the men of Matthew Road for this time of fellowship and study, as we seek the Lord through the diligent study of His Word. To RSVP, contact Joshua Lemmon at 817.680.4889 or fishcreekcarpenter@gmail.com.



Children's Ministry

SAVE THE DATE for PRETEEN EXTREME WEEKEND!
Friday - Sunday, June 26-28

Wednesday Nights, for kids ages 3* - 6th grade.

February is Awana Grand Prix month! Parents are invited to cheer on their racers on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sparks Race - Wednesday, February 11. T&T Girls Race - Wednesday, February 18. T&T Boys Race - Wednesday, February 25.



Sunday Afternoon, for kids from 7th - 12th grade.

TREK/Journey is for students in Jr. High and High School to continue AWANA. 7th - 12th grade AWANA meets on Sundays from 4:00pm - 5:30pm.

VBS Dates are set so put them on your calendar! Theme: MOVE!

From here to there. From bored to passionate. From selfish to giving. From unfocused to wide awake. With MOVE! kids will be shown people in the Bible who changed direction and moved, and they all had one thing in common: Somewhere along the way, they came face to face with Jesus. They discovered who He was and once that happened, there was no standing still or going back. God moved toward us first. Now it's our turn. MOVE! Monday through Friday, June 15-19 - 6-8:30pm.



Sunday Nights 5:30pm
Front Lawn of
Worship Center

This Spring we will study the Old Testament books of Ezra & Nehemiah. Don't miss out as we learn what it means to be courageous leaders for God's Kingdom.



Facebook - facebook.com/mrbccchildrens
Blog - mrbccchildrensministry.blogspot.com
Twitter - MRBCmrbc

We will continue through the Gospel Project on Sunday mornings at 9:45am! Don't miss a Sunday hearing the Gospel presented throughout the entirety of the Bible.



Student Ministry

Check out the Student Ministry Events & Activities coming soon!

Bible studies:

- High School Guys (9th - 12th) - @ the Geisendorff's, Mondays, 6:30pm, led by Seniors
- High School Girls (9th - 12th)- @ Christine Wehrli & Maggie Dean's, Thursdays, 6:30pm, led by Christine & Maggie
- Middle School Guys (7th, 8th & 9th) - @Kings, Mondays, 6:30pm, led by Andrew Snyder
- Middle School Guys (7th & 8th) - @ Ms. Shirley's or the Hines, Mondays, 6pm-8pm, led by Chris Hines & Jonathan Phipps (contact Jonathan at 214-796-9181 for location)
- Middle School Girls (7th & 8th) - @ the West's, Mondays 6:00pm-7:00pm, led by Madi Snowden
- Athletes Guys Bible Study - @ MRBC, Mondays, 6:00pm, led by Nic Russo & Jared Scott

Counseling Ministry

Announcing Grace Groups for Individuals and Families Dealing with Mental Health Struggles

Matthew Road Christian Counseling is sponsoring a Living Grace Group and a Family Grace group in Grand Prairie. The Living Grace group is a support program for people diagnosed with serious mental illness. The Family Grace Group is a support program specifically for parents, siblings, spouses, teen-age and adults sons and daughters, partners and significant others who are caregivers of persons with severe and persistent mental illness. The weekly sessions are held on Thursday evenings at Matthew Road Baptist Church 4601 Matthew Rd., Grand Prairie 75052, from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

The support groups will cover information about Building Your Faith, Stigma, Communication, Medication, Grieving and Grace, Being Holistic, You're not the Hero, Cycles and Triggers, Community, Crisis and Problem Solving, Negative and Destructive Behavior, Boundaries to Rebuild, Enabling vs. Empowering, and Staying Ahead of the Game. The Living Grace group will be facilitated by a counselor, and the Family Grace group is facilitated by 2 family members who are MHGA volunteers and have taken intensive training as course instructors.

The Grace Groups are offered at NO COST.

For more information or to register, contact either Greg Trihus 972-855-8547 or greg.trihus@sil.org, or Meg Trihus at 972-372-9671 or meg.trihus@sil.org. You can also contact Matthew Road Christian Counseling 469-278-5901, Keith@matthewroad.org.

Women's Ministry



1 & 2 Thessalonians Women's Study

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN US!

Ever want to get outside the walls of the church and do Bible Study?
Have a place where you can invite a friend, but one that may not want to come to church?
Then we have the study for you!

Glazed has opened their doors to us. Stephanie, the owner, is going to open the doors at 4:30pm.
The leftover donuts are ours. Invite your unchurched friends!

When: Tuesdays
Where: Glazed, 3050 W. Camp Wisdom Rd, #180
Time: 4:30pm
Who: Women of all ages
Cost: \$16.00 (for the book)

Join us for the first **Women's Theological Conference**
February 7th where we will dig into the Gospel of John
and discover God's Grace and Truth lived out
through the person of Christ.

When: February 7th
Where: MRBC
Time: 8:30am to 3:00pm
Who: Women of all ages
Cost: \$6.00 (Includes breakfast and lunch)

A full day of teaching by Dr. Kim Sweet, Susan Bickston and Rachel Sullenger, and fellowship!
RSVP to christy@matthewroad.org or call the church office to reserve your place .

Spring Women's Retreat

Join us for a weekend of study,
fellowship and so much more
(Details to follow)

When: March 13 - 14
Where: Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose
Who: Women of all ages
Cost: \$70.00 (lodging, meals, and all the extras - we women like extras)
Unwrapping the truths from scripture that speak to the heart of a woman.

Music Ministry



"Maren, Jeff, and Lawrence
at Rengma Baptist Church
in Kohima, Nagaland"

Dear Matthew Road family,
Thank you so much for allowing me to return to Nagaland! It was a wonderful trip and was very encouraging and refreshing for me personally. I really cherished the opportunity to rekindle friendships and partner with new friends in India. I will always treasure the times of worship with the students at the college in Kohima. It is moving and humbling to see how God is using this new generation to continue His work in Nagaland. Thank you again for the opportunity and a special thank you to everyone who provided musical leadership in my absence.

On the home front, we are excited that our Spring semester is in full swing. Plans for Resurrection Sunday are coming together and all of our choirs have resumed their normal schedules. We hope that you will consider joining us during our times of preparation and worship!

It is a joy to serve with you,
Jeff

- ♫ Adult choir rehearsals will have begun! Wednesday nights at 6:30pm, in the sanctuary.
- ♫ Proclamation Youth Choir has begun. Wednesday nights, at 5:45pm in the choir room.
- ♫ The Children's Choir meets Wednesday nights, at 6:00pm, on the second floor of the ed. building.

PAW Spring



Preschool Academy of Westchester (PAW) is a quality preschool program for children ages 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.

Tuition and Fees: Tuition is \$130.00 per month. There is an annual supply fee of \$75.00 (prorated if enrolling during the school year) and a registration fee of \$35.00 (non-refundable). Supply and registration fees are due upon enrollment.

Pease call Cyndi King, at 972-641-7380, for more information about this and our Summer Programs.

**Enroll now for the
Summer & Fall Semesters!!!**

20Somethings

What's up

February 15th - Ice Skating 6:00pm (see Madi)	TBA
February 27 - 28 Equip Conference in San Antonio (see Rachel)	\$60.00
March - TBA	TBA
April - 17 Retreat at Riverbend (See Rachel)	\$50.00
May - Top Golf (See Madi)	\$10.00

EQUIP
conference

When: February 27 - 28
Cost: \$60.00
What Is It? 5 breakout sessions and 2 main sessions with topics like apologetics and the reliability of the scriptures. If you have not paid Rachel yet, you must by 2/4/15. Questions? Call Rachel, 972.641.2717.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Bible Study
Sunday:
9:45AM - Topical;
The Book of Acts
Ed Bldg
5:30PM - Snack/Prophets as
Preachers
Fellowship Hall

Discipleship Wednesday:
8:30PM - Common Grounds
I & II Thessalonians

20some things

Good Reads

- ☞ *A Shattered Visage*, Ravi Zacharias
- ☞ *I am a Church Member*, Thomas Rainer
- ☞ *Basic Christianity*, John Stott

Matthew Road Academy



Q&A COFFEE

March 3rd or 17th, 8:30am-9:15am
(Please arrive on time)

Q&A COFFEE is a chance to take a glimpse of MRA. We will share our mission, the 2015-2016 course offerings, and answer your questions.

Families who are interested will be able to schedule their Family Interview and Assessments, starting the process of enrolling at MRA. For more info, see our webpage at www.matthewroadacademy.org

NEW FAMILY PREVIEW NIGHT! Monday, Feb 23rd, 6:30pm-8:00pm
(Please arrive on time.)

Preview Night is a chance to take a glimpse of MRA. We will share our mission, the 2015- 2016 course offerings, answer your questions and introduce the MRA Staff. Families who are interested will be able to schedule their Family Interview and Assessments, starting the process of enrolling at MRA. For more info, see our webpage at www.matthewroadacademy.org

February 2015 Events & Activities

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

- February 1st:** Youth Super Bowl Party, TBD
February 4th: Business Meeting, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
February 5th: Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
February 6th - 7th: Men's Conference, see ad on pg 2
February 7th: 2015 Women's Winter Conference, see ad on pg 5
February 8th: Finance Committee Meeting, 10:50am, Church Office
Newcomers Class & Luncheon, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall
February 11th:AWANA Racers, 6:30pm, see your AWANA leader for more info
February 13th:Youth YMCA Purity Night, 6:00, see Zach for more info
February 15th:Children's Ministry Volunteer Spring Training Luncheon, 12:30pm, Fellowship Hall
February 18th:AWANA Racers, 6:30pm, see your AWANA leader for more info
February 20th:Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center
February 21st:Deacon Meeting, 8:15am, Fellowship Hall
February 22nd:Teller Meeting & Training, 12:15pm, Teller Room
February 23rd:Matthew Road Academy Preview Night, 6:00pm, CommonGrounds
February 25th:AWANA Racers, 6:30pm, see your AWANA leader for more info
February 27th - 28th: Youth Equip Conference, see Zach for more info

Save the date:
Ride to Rescue
April 26th!

Discipleship

Sunday Nights:

- ◇ 20Somethings - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Discipleship - Sanctuary, 5:30pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Conference Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Young Marrieds Bible Study - Library, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Couples Class - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - CommonGrounds, 5:30pm , see Zach for exact location
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - CommonGrounds, 5:30pm, see Zach for exact location
- ◇ MD² for children - Education Building, 5:30pm

Wednesday Nights:

- ◇ AWANA Club for children - Ed. Building, 6:30pm
- ◇ Collide for youth - CommonGrounds, 6:30pm
- ◇ Adult Bible Studies - Library, 6:45pm
- ◇ Women's Bible Study - Conference Room, 6:45pm
- ◇ 20Somethings Bible Study - CommonGrounds, 8:30pm

Regular Scheduled Activities

Sundays	
Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	5:30pm
7:17 Service	6:45pm
Mondays	
PAW Program	9:00am
Tuesdays	
MRA	8:30am
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
Women's Bible Study (Glazed Doughnuts)	4:30pm
Wednesdays	
PAW Program	9:00am
Wednesday Night Dinner	5:15pm
Proclamation (youth choir)	5:45pm
Children's Choir	6:00pm
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Adult Choir	6:30pm
AWANA Club	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:45pm
20Somethings	8:30pm
Thursdays	
MRA	8:30am
Fridays	
Chick time at Chick-Fil-A	9:00am
Saturdays	
Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, Grand Prairie)	7:30am

Average Morning Attendance for January: 349
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for January: 161

Financials as of end of December (without PAW) - see pg 2

