



## 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?”<sup>4</sup> 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

With the release of the new movie on this Biblical event, it is worth taking a moment to engage this important Old Testament event through the lens of Scripture. 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. 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) “<sup>10</sup>But 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.” <sup>11</sup>Then 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? <sup>12</sup>Now 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’ hesitation 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

## 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, so 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

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

AWANA Clubs returns Wednesday, January 7th!

\*3 year olds in Cubbies must be potty trained, and have turned 3 by Sept. 1st. A parent must stay on campus through the duration of the program. See our website to see what Adult Bible Study classes we have for you.

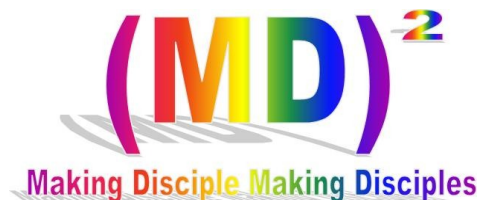


### Sunday Afternoon, for kids from 7th - 12th grade.

TREK/Journey is for students in Jr. High and High School to continue AWANA. See our website to see what Adult Bible Study classes we have for you. 7th - 12th grade AWANA meets on Sundays from 4:00pm - 5:30pm.



*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.*



*Sunday Nights 5:30pm  
Front Lawn of  
Worship Center*

MD<sup>2</sup> is for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade. Join us for games on the lawn (weather permitting) followed by small group boys and girls Bible study groups.

Facebook - [facebook.com/mrbccchildrens](https://facebook.com/mrbccchildrens)

Blog - [mrbccchildrensministry.blogspot.com](http://mrbccchildrensministry.blogspot.com)

Twitter - MRBCmrbc



## Student Ministry

### Check out the Student Ministry Events & Activities coming soon!

#### January 3rd -

Small Group Leadership Training 1pm-5pm @MRBC SMAC/Common Grounds (\*Small Group Leaders, let me know if you can make this! It is for training for the Spring, need you here if you can make it)

#### January 4th -

Sunday School Leaders Meeting Luncheon after 11:00pm service in 11th- 12th grade room! \*Let me know leaders if you are able to make it

#### January 11th -

Parent Meeting in Sanctuary after 11am service (12:15pm)

#### January 28th -

Youth serving Dinner, serving Pancakes and breakfast 5:00pm-6:00pm!

#### 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, Tuesdays, 6pm-8pm, led by Chris Hines
- 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

## Wednesday Night Dinner Ministry



Wednesday Night Dinners will return

Wednesday, January 7th at 5:15pm!



## Women's Ministry



### 1 & 2 Thessalonians Women's Study

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!

Beginning Tuesday, January 13th, Glazed has opened their doors to us. Stephanie, the owner, is going to open the doors at 4:30 pm. The leftover donuts are ours. Invite your unchurched friends!

When: Tuesdays, beginning January 13th  
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. Sweet and others and fellowship.  
RSVP to [christy@matthewroad.org](mailto: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

### Happy new year!

As we look ahead to all that 2015 will bring, we hope that you and your family will consider joining one of our ensembles at MRBC!

Our Children's Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:00pm in the Education Building. The Adult Choir will kick off the Spring semester one week later on Wednesday, January 14 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Proclamation, our Student Choir, will begin on Wednesday, January 28 at 5:45pm in the Choir Room.

We hope that you enjoyed our Christmas musical as much as we did. It was definitely a memorable and fun morning of worship! I wanted to take a moment to publicly thank our music ministry teams that worked so hard. Heidi Fischer wrote a phenomenal script and directed our drama team. The cast was outstanding and was supported by our technical crew. I thought the choir and praise band did a great job with all of the music. Alison Fischer deserves a lot of credit for all she does to support these ensembles throughout the year and especially at Christmas. We are all looking forward to a new year of great new music! ~ Jeff



## 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.

**Enroll now for the  
Spring Semester!!!**

20Somethings

What's up	
January 20th - Alley Cats	\$10
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. Must commit by Jan 29th and money turned in. Questions? Call Rachel, 972.641.2717.

REGULAR SCHEDULE	
Bible Study Sunday:	9:45AM - II Corinthians; The Book of Acts Ed Bldg
	5:30PM - Snack/Prophets as Preachers Fellowship Hall
Discipleship Wednesday:	8:30PM - Common Grounds Attributes of God and why do they matter

20some things

Good Reads	
☞	<i>A Shattered Visage</i> , Ravi Zacharias
☞	<i>I am a Church Member</i> , Thomas Rainer
☞	<i>Basic Christianity</i> , John Stott

Matthew Road Academy



Matthew Road Academy is now accepting resumes for the 2015-2016 school year. MRA is a growing Christian two day a week university model school for 3rd-12th grade on Tuesday/Thursday. Teachers work in their field of subject for 1-6 class hours per school day. The Academy supplies the curriculum, the teacher prepares their syllabus. This is a perfect position for a retired teacher or someone who has left the field, but would love working part time. Pay is competitive. Interested teachers must have classroom experience, preferred certification present/past and/or a degree in their field of study, and be active in their church. Please contact Candice McClellin at mracademy@att.net or 469-261-3779.



January 2015 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, [www.matthewroad.org](http://www.matthewroad.org), or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

January 4th:	Youth SS Teachers Meeting/Lunch, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall
January 5th:	K1 Program returns, 8:45am, Education Building
January 6th:	MRA Program returns, 8:00am, MRBC Campus Young @ Heart returns, 9:45am, Fellowship Hall
January 7th:	PAW Program returns, 9:00am, MRBC Campus Wednesday Night Dinner returns, 5:15pm, Fellowship Hall Proclamation Choir returns, 5:45pm, Choir Room Children's Choir returns, 6:00pm, 2nd Flr, Ed Building AWANA Club returns, 6:30pm, Ed Building
January 11th - 18th:	Mission Trip to India, please join us in prayer for this team
January 11th:	Youth Parent Meeting, 12:15pm, Sanctuary Deacon Meeting, 4:30pm, Conference Room
January 13th:	Women's Bible Study begins, 4:30pm, Glazed Doughnuts
January 14th:	Adult Choir returns, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
January 26th:	MRA Talent Show, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

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
  - ◇ MD<sup>2</sup> 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

Average Morning Attendance for December: 495  
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for November: 225

Regular Scheduled Activities

<b>Sundays</b>	
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
<b>Mondays</b>	
PAW Program	9:00am
<b>Tuesdays</b>	
MRA	8:30am
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
Women's Bible Study (beginning 1/13/14) (Glazed Doughnuts)	4:30pm
<b>Wednesdays</b>	
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
<b>Thursdays</b>	
MRA	8:30am
<b>Fridays</b>	
Chick time at Chick-Fil-A	9:00am
<b>Saturdays</b>	
Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, Grand Prairie)	7:30am

Financials as of December 5, 2014 (without PAW)

Budget Income	\$ 824,667
Budget Expense	(868,191)
Net Budget	(43,524)