

A Beautiful Picture

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23:1-6

Even for those of us with little knowledge of sheep and shepherds, the imagery of this poetic passage provides such comfort. We can imagine King David as a boy, sitting on a rock overlooking his family's herd. He sings to pass the time of day. He meditates on the Bible and contemplates the nature of God and the nature of people. In the midst of his growing relationship with his creator, this image comes to David's mind. "Isn't God a lot like a shepherd? Are we not all a lot like sheep?" This inspired text comes from the struggles of daily shepherd life. David had spent his time caring for these helpless animals. He knew them. He knew their needs. He knew their natural inclination toward trouble. He understood their fears. God, just like the shepherd with his sheep, knows us. He understands our helplessness, our fears, our needs, and our

inclination toward trouble. Interesting to consider that some of the greatest leaders of the Old Testament were first shepherds. Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and David all learned their leadership skills through hard labor over smelly animals. God put them in that position before using them in places of authority over people. This is significant in the development of patience, the honed skills of seeing trouble on the horizon, the drive to provide for the most basic needs, and the understanding of how the weakness of one can lead to the harm of the many. Notice the shepherding language used in this passage and how that language gives us a glimpse into the care God has for us. "I shall not want" - an acknowledgement that God knows what we need and will meet our needs. "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies" - a confession about God's understanding of the treacherous world in which we live. "You have anointed my head with oil" - a picture of the blessings that flow from God to His people. "My cup overflows" - a picture of the joy of the follower of God.

Don't take this the wrong way, but when it comes to life we are really dumb, helpless, prone to wander off, susceptible to all kinds of trouble, and in need of the continual, gracious care of another.



Don't be offended. While telling us about the realistic view of our situation, I am ultimately confessing my own troubles. We need Him like a sheep needs a shepherd. It should not surprise us then when Jesus refers to Himself as "the Good Shepherd." As followers of Christ we live under His protective care much the same way the king of Israel, King David, lived.

God goes beyond shepherding us in Christ. He not only shepherds His sheep, but He recues, redeems, ransoms, and restores. He does this work in the most remarkable way. Jesus Christ becomes one of us. He becomes "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." "All of us like sheep have gone astray, but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall upon Him." He became helpless. He became sin on our behalf. The only pure and spotless Lamb of God allowed Himself to be treated as a rebel so that the justice of God would be satisfied in His death and resurrection. The Shepherd became the Lamb in order to save us. This is the ultimate provision of God for His people. The greatest blessing that flows from God to His people. This redemption by God on our behalf produces the greatest joy in the life of His followers. "The Lord is my Shepherd" takes on even greater meaning in light of what Christ, the Good Shepherd, has done for us.

~ Daniel

Children's Ministry

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

- ☼ Cream the Commander & Sno Cones on Wednesday, May 20th.
- ☼ Wednesday, May 27th AWANA Family Pizza Dinner (FREE!), 5:15pm, Fellowship Hall AND Awards, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
- ☼ Awana will resume for registration on Wednesday, August 26th.



What: Family Rec Games, Gaga ball, Human foosball, playground fun, Devotional & Lunch.

When: Saturday, May 16th 9am-2:30pm

Where: Mt. Lebanon Retreat and Conference Center, Cedar Hill

Cost: \$8 per person* or \$30 family maximum

RSVP & Ask Questions: Brittany@matthewroad.org by May 11th.

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.

Monday through Friday, June 15-19 - 6-8:30pm.

- VBS Volunteer Meeting, Sunday, May 31st, 4:30-5:30pm

Matthew Room, Education Building.

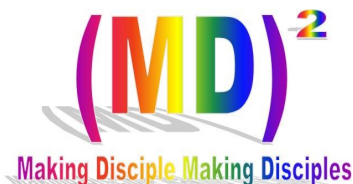


For 3rd-6th grade Boys & Girls June 26-27

Girls - will be at Ms. Brittany's house & Embassy Suites

Boys & fathers/mentors - will be canoeing and staying on the

Brazos River. Cost: \$75. Registration open now. Contact Brittany for more information!



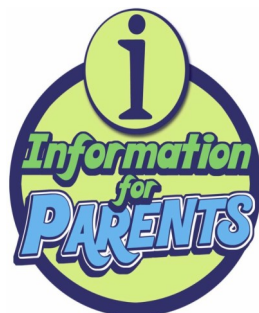
May – Join us each Sunday night as we study & pray for the persecuted church around the world. 5:30pm.



- ☼ Sunday, May 17 - Sunday School & MD2 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the second service.
- ☼ Every Monday & Wednesday in July - Camp 3:17 Sports Camps 9am-1pm.

Children's Ministry
Parent Meeting
Sunday, May 24th
12:15pm, Library

Be sure to attend this meeting to learn more about our upcoming summer events including Preteen Extreme Weekend.



Student Ministry



LaTourneau University in Longview, Tx

High School: June 22nd - 27th, Cost: \$300

Middle School: June 29th - July 3rd, Cost: \$300

Questions?

Contact Zach at 210-818-8002 or zach@matthewroad.org

Student Ministry Calendar

May 17th - Youth Observant Day

May 20th - Youth Training Day (Students in Common Grounds 5pm)

May 22nd - TGIF @Van Veldhuizen's 2514 Channing Dr., Grand Prairie, TX 75052 7:00pm-9:30pm

May 24th - Youth Sunday

May 27th - Senior Sendoff @Collide *Senior Parents, we will be sending an email to you in regards to the schedule

June 7th - Parent Meeting 12:15pm (after 11:00am service)

June 22nd-27th - High School Camp (Impact Camp at LeTourneau University) Cost \$300

June 29th-July 3rd - Middle School Camp (Impact Camp at LeTourneau University) Cost \$300

July 19th-July 24th - High School Mission Trip to Harlingen, TX Cost \$250

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)
- Athletes Guys Bible Study - @ MRBC, Mondays, 6:00pm, led by Zach
- Middle School Girls (7th & 8th) - @ the West's, Mondays 6:00pm-7:00pm, led by Madi Snowden

Music Ministry

It's not too late to join us! All ages will have the opportunity to lead in worship during this exciting time in the life of our church.

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

Women's Ministry

Mark your calendars:

- ✧ **May 19th** - New Bible Study at Glazed, led by Diana Hines (see ad below)
- ✧ **June 7th** - Women's Ministry Planning Meeting (crepes will be served!)
- ✧ **July 11th** - Women's Event – details to come
- ✧ **September 12th** - Women's Conference, more info to come!



Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings:

Kim Sweet – the book of Philippians
Joy Richards – the book of Acts
Sunday night – varies

Tuesday Afternoons, beginning May 19th (6 week study), Glazed, 4:30 PM (see ad below)

Wednesday Nights, Library – the book of Luke, Cyndi King

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A – the book of Luke, Cyndi King



Beginning May 19th, 4:30pm, at Glazed.
Diana Hines teaching this six week study.

Cost: \$20 for book.

(<http://store.precept.org/On-Sale-Now/Sweeter-than-Chocolate-Hebrews-11.html>)

Join us as we pray and plan together for all the Lord wants to do in the
Women's Ministry at MRBC.

When: June 7, 2015

Where: Fellowship Hall

Time: 12:30pm to 2:00pm (crepes will be served!)

Who: Any woman who would like to be involved in Women's Ministry

Cost: Free, but there is no childcare



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in the
ORDINARY

Recipe: Minute Steak

Ingredients:

4 minute steaks (they are the round steaks that look like they've been run over)
One Can Cream of Mushroom Soup mixed with 2/3 can water, 1 tsp Olive oil

Directions:

Heat the olive oil. Once hot, sear steak on both sides. Takes about 5 minutes.
While steak is browning, mix Cream of Mushroom soup with 2/3 can of water.
Once Steak is browned on both sides, pour soup mixture over. Allow both to simmer together for about 5 minutes. Serve over rice - if your in a hurry use minute rice.

For super fast dinner, serve with steamed broccoli and crusty French bread.
Dinner should be done in less than 15 minutes.

(If you have a tip you can share for busy women email rachel@matthewroad.org)



PAW



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.

Fall Tuition and Fees: Tuition is \$135.00 per month. There is an annual supply fee of \$100.00 (prorated if enrolling during the school year) and a registration fee of \$50.00 (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 fall semester!

Matthew Road Academy

MRA Discovery Days

Our summer program offers students from 1st - 6th grade
an amazing opportunity to discover fun while learning.
To sign up, please go to matthewroadacademy.org/summer.



- ✧ **Imagination Station**, June 1st & 3rd, 9am -2pm
Let your child's imagination come to life, as they learn to build the things that they have previously only seen in their dreams. Imagination station will be a 2 day camp of building and discovery.
- ✧ **Kitchen Chemistry**, June 8th & 10th , 9am -2pm
What happens when vinegar mixes with baking soda? How messy can you get in the kitchen? Kitchen Chemistry will bring science to a whole new level of fun as children learn how different items found in their own kitchen can become their next experiment.
- ✧ **All About Nature**, June 22nd & 24th, 9am -2pm
The world around us is full of mystery. God's creation is constantly calling us to explore, so come join us as we learn about what God made in the beginning, from the biggest to the small. This week will be hands on and full of fun, so be prepared!
- ✧ **Water Works**, June 29th & July 1st, 9am -2pm
It's hot outside, and it's time to stay cool! So bring your sun block & your towels because we are going to be exploring water first hand in this fun filled week of H2O.



NEED INFO?

Call or Text Rachel
@ 972-965-9970

Mexico Mission Trip

July 26th - 31st

Cost - \$250

More info to come...

Culmination of 12 Ordinary Men! There will be food and a Prize!!!!!!!!!!!!

When: May 10
Where: Fellowship Hall
What: Food and Game
Time: 8:30pm
What to Bring: A friend
Cost: Free

it's
Game
Time

Welcome Here! Welcome
Back! Glad you're here!

When: June 3
Where: Common Grounds
What: Food and Games
Time: 8:30pm
What to Bring: A friend
Cost: Free

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Bible Studies

Sunday:

9:45AM - Topical;
Books of
1st & 2nd Peter & Acts
Ed Bldg

5:30PM - Snack/Prophets as
Book of
7 Church of Revelations
Fellowship Hall

Discipleship Wednesday:

8:30PM - Common Grounds
7 Deadly Sins

May 2015 Events & Activities

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

May 5th: MRA End of Year Program, 6:00pm, Sanctuary
May 7th: Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
May 8th: PAW Teacher Appreciation Dinner, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall
May 10th: 20Somethings Jeopardy & Food, 8:30pm, Fellowship Hall, see Rachel for info
May 16th: Children's Family Camp Day @ Mt. Lebanon, see Brittany for info
May 17th: Youth Observation Sunday, 9:45am
 Children's SS & MD2 Leader Appreciation Lunch, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall
 B&G Meeting, 4:30pm, Conference Room
May 20th: AWANA Cream the Commander, 6:30pm, Back Parking Lot
May 22nd: Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center *By reservation only
May 24th: Youth Led Sunday
 Children's Ministry Parent Meeting, 12:15pm, Library
May 25th: **Church Office closed in observance of Memorial Day**
May 27th: AWANA Award Night, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
May 31st: Deacon Meeting, 4:30pm, Conference Call
 VBS Planning Meeting, 4:30pm, Matthew Room

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

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
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Fridays

Chick time at Chick-Fil-A	9:00am
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Saturdays

Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, Grand Prairie)	7:30am
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Financials as of April 16, 2015 (without PAW)

Budget Income	\$244,638
Budget Expense	\$(243,551)
Net Budget	\$1,088

Average Morning Attendance for April: 416

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for April: 118