



“Here is Your God!”

““Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God. “Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her, that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received of the LORD’S hand Double for all her sins.” A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. “Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” A voice says, “Call out.” Then he answered, “What shall I call out?” All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”” Isaiah 40:1-9

For Jerusalem, comfort was nowhere to be found. Years of incursions from the Assyrians had reduced the once great southern kingdom of Judah to a few communities surrounding the capital city of Jerusalem. The northern kingdom of Israel had already fallen to Assyria. Now almost completely isolated, Judah struggled under the weight of tributes required to be paid to foreign governments and incompetent leaders like Manasseh, who was bent on evil. Making matters worse, Isaiah had informed the people of a new threat to their survival. God prophesied through Isaiah that the Babylonian kingdom would rise up over Assyria and eventually over Judah. Isaiah foretold of the king of Babylon’s capture of the city and his enslavement of many of the children of the Jewish leadership. In fact, Isaiah 39 contains this statement, “Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,” says the LORD.” (Isaiah 39:6)

Now imagine the dramatic shift that takes place just three verses later when Isaiah 40 opens with this pronouncement from God, “Comfort My people.” Isaiah is a difficult book in many ways. One challenge, that continually strains the scholarly world, deals with the thematic disparity between chapters 39 and 40. Some scholars have even argued that the first 39 chapters were written by one author and the last 27 chapters were written by an entirely different author, with the completion of each work separated by generations. I believe Isaiah the prophet wrote the entire 66 chapters. That being said, there clearly is something to the change in theme beginning with this verse. A number of years ago, I attempted to read the entire Bible in a month. It took me longer than that to read the entire Bible, but during that attempt I remember reading the Book of Isaiah in a single day. It took a long time to accomplish, but I really sensed the difference between the first and second half of the book. It feels like some time has passed between these two chapters, almost like Isaiah put down the pen for an extended rest. When he starts back to the task of writing this particular prophecy, things have changed. Israel has gone through some serious troubles, self-induced troubles for they received from the LORD a double portion “for all her sins.” Maybe Isaiah wrote this section with divine foresight - an understanding of future events. In this section, God provides a prediction of John the Baptist’s role in the coming comfort for Jerusalem. John will come as a voice to “Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness.” When John the Baptist comes, he will prepare the way for the glory of the LORD to be revealed. “Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” John will prepare the way for the Messiah. One day, in the future history of Jerusalem, Isaiah revealed to the citizens of Jerusalem in his day that the Messiah would display the glory of the LORD for all people to see. This prophecy really makes bold claims. How can this be? How can a nation go from near extinction to seeing the glory of God? Does Isaiah really know what he is writing? Does he stumble through this wondering to himself, “does God really want me to write this?” It seems as if God knew Jerusalem would be skeptical of this

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claim. It is as if God anticipates their struggle. “Can we trust God with this?” God, through His prophet, answered the unspoken objection. “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” People die. Flowers fade. Grass withers and dies. However, God’s Word is not like those. His Word stands forever. You can count on what He says. He will complete everything that He has promised. So confident that God will accomplish what He has promised, God tells them to proclaim the good news – the good news of the coming Messiah, the Son of God bearing all the glory of His father – “Say to Judah, Here is Your God!” What a marvelous declaration to the people of Judah. All the sorrow will come to an end for God Himself will come to you and He will make things new.

For us, the same confidence in God's Word remains. God's Word will not fail. Now we look back with great amazement at His directive concerning the events that were fulfilled. Isaiah 40 came about during the ministry of John and the revelation of the Messiah. God's Son came into the world as the ultimate comfort for His people. Just as Israel could look back on God's fulfilled promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses, we can look back at the fulfillment of promises to Isaiah. With that in mind, what future promises found in God's Word provide comfort for us?. "Comfort My people because My Word does not fail," says our God. In our case, we have the promises of Christ as an abiding comfort. "In My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so I would have told you. Behold, I go and prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again, that where I am you may be also." That passage, along with a host of passages in the New Testament functions as a great comfort to the people of God, just as Isaiah's words were to function as a comfort to Judah during Isaiah's day. Christ Jesus fulfilled the promises provided to us in the book of Isaiah. Christ Jesus will fulfill the promises provided to us in the New Testament concerning our ultimate destiny. For all who believe in Christ, and look for His return, may these words be continually on our hearts and minds. “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever.”

~ Daniel



Sunday, September 20th  
12:15pm  
Fellowship Hall  
Lunch & Childcare Provided

Since we have people attending our church from every type of church background, we have established an on-going class, which provides basic information about our church. We would like to invite you to our NewComer’s Class & Dinner. We request that all new members attend this class. We also invite those who have not yet joined our church, or rejoined our family, and wish to learn more about our church home. As a part of the class, we will explain what we believe, how we operate, our vision, and a little about the background of our church. This informal setting will allow you the opportunity to ask questions and grow in your understanding of the ministries of our church. Our next class is September 20th, at 12:15pm. Lunch and childcare are provided. Please RSVP to the Welcome Desk, or to the church office at christy@matthewroad.org, or call 972-641-2717.

## Children's Ministry



Promotion Sunday is Sunday, August 23rd  
It's time to promote up in the Children's Ministry!

Sunday School –

Kindergarten (Blue Room) – Taught by Mr. Paul & Ms. Krystal

1st Grade (Orange Room) – Taught by Ms. Susie & Ms. Robin

2nd & 3rd Grade (Red Room) – Taught by Ms. April

4th Grade (upstairs, ed bldg) – Taught by Ms. Laura & Ms. Cindy

5th & 6th Grade (upstairs, ed bldg) – Taught by Mr. David & Ms. Kaylyn



### Awana Volunteer Recruiting!

Come invest in the lives of 100+ kids on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons ages 3 through high school! Email [brittany@matthewroad.org](mailto:brittany@matthewroad.org) if you are interested.

**Volunteer Training Wednesday, August 19th, 6:30-8pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

### Awana Registration Party

Wednesday, August 26th, 6:30-8pm

Come register your kids and then play the night away!

(Inflatable Slide, Slip n' Slide, and other Water Fun on the lawn after you complete the registration process in the education building).



We welcome new kindergartners to MD2! We begin on the front lawn (weather permitting) for games and then break into boys & girls age divided groups for Bible Study. This Fall we are studying 1 John & Revelation. Join us as we learn what it means to be a disciple committed to going out into the world to make disciples!

### Children's Church -

We welcome new 3 year olds to Children's Church in the 11am service (after worship & Scripture Reading) and congratulate new 1st graders as they stay with their parents through the duration of the worship service. (Children's Church is for children who are 3, 4, and 5 years old or in Kindergarten).



## Student Ministry



For any questions  
about anything @ anytime,  
contact Zach (210-818-8002)  
or Jonathan (214-796-9181)

### Bible studies:

Student Bible studies will not meet this summer, unless otherwise notified by your small group leaders (in other words, you're more than welcome to meet unofficially if you would still like!)



## PAW

**Register today - Classes are filling up!**



**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 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  
bout this and our Summer Programs.**



## Women's Ministry

**Come join us for High Tea at the Tin Tulip Tea Room**  
4905 South Cooper St, Arlington, TX 76017

**Who: Women of MRBC and friends**

**When: August 8th**

**Time: 2:00PM**

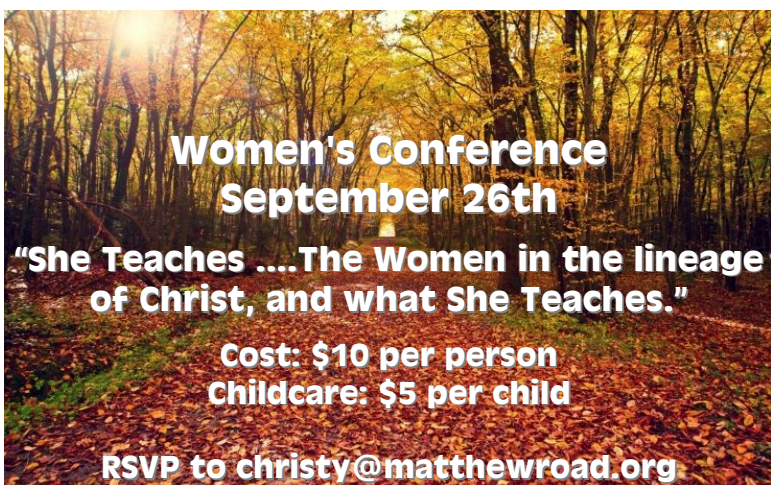
**Cost: 10.95 + tip**

**What: Tea and conversation**

Space is limited, so you must RSVP to [rachel@matthewroad.org](mailto:rachel@matthewroad.org) by August 3rd.

### Menu

Assorted Tea Sandwiches, freshly baked scones and clotted cream topped off with Cheesecake, all served with the beverage of your choice & mini devotional - you are a china cup!



### Mark your calendars:

- ✧ August 8th - High Tea
- ✧ September 26th - Women's Conference
- ✧ October 3rd - 1st Monday Trade Days, Canton Tx
- ✧ April 22nd - 24th, 2016 - Women's Retreat



### Weekly Bible Studies:

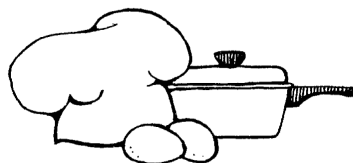
Sunday mornings:

Rachel Sullenger – the book of Timothy  
Joy Richards – the book of Acts  
Sunday night – the book of Acts

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

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

**Cooking with  
a Master  
Saturday, Nov. 14th  
10:00am**



## Music Ministry

It is great to be back at MRBC! Bailey and I had a wonderful trip to the Czech Republic. While there, we partnered with IMB missionary, Mike Young, to staff an English language camp in a town called Uherske Hradiste. The IMB has focused a lot of their efforts in Prague, which contains about 14% of the nation's population. Mike works in the surrounding regions to lead Bible studies in the community and to connect with Baptist Churches. Our English language camp was the result of a partnership with the Baptist Church of Uherske Hradiste. I had the opportunity to lead the music in the Sunday services for both weeks. "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High" was clearly a favorite, and I loved hearing the English and Czech lyrics being sung at the same time. This church has a difficult time, because 90% of Czechs are atheists. One student told me that she had never seen more than 300 Christians in one place at the same time.

We enjoyed our mornings as we explored the town of 25,000 people. At 11:30, the high school students would begin to gather at our hotel. We would eat lunch with the students and then teach graded language classes from 1:00-4:00. Bailey and I taught lessons involving music, education and learning, American culture, family and the home, and occupations. We focused on vocabulary with our younger group, but were able to take a more conversational approach with the older students. At 4:30, we played rowdy youth group games, sang silly songs (which were a highlight of the week) and Mike gave a brief sermon before dinner. After dinner we played board games with the students during the adult classes. It brought us great joy to hear one of our unsaved students singing to herself "my God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do" while playing cards. At 9:30, when our responsibilities were over, we spent a couple more hours with many of our students at a music festival in the town square.

We were so touched when our new friends came to church with us on Sunday. We had clearly presented the Gospel on Friday afternoon, so I was glad for the opportunity to continue the discussion. There were significant steps taken toward Christ. Please pray for our special friends Kate and Hana, that the message they heard would take root in their lives and that they would come to saving faith in Christ. Pray for Kate and Anna of the Baptist Church in Uherske Hradiste. Anna's father will not allow her to attend church. She is only allowed to attend on the Sunday following the annual English camp, because of the garden party that follows the service. Pray for Pavel, the pastor of the church in UH. He has such a heart for international missions. We were moved to hear about how his church of 30 is sending relief aid and personnel to minister to middle eastern refugees in Turkey. Finally, pray for our new friends Mike and Wendi Young as they begin their ninth year in the Czech Republic. Pray for encouragement and strength for them as their oldest child just left to attend college in America.

On a personal level, I was very surprised to find that this trip impacted me deeply on a musical level. I still don't understand it all and can't adequately express it, but I know that God used this trip to affect my relationship to music. In short, I thought that the guitar would be a handy conversation starter and a reliable way to fill time. Instead, it became a vital part of our work there, beginning just hours after landing. I expected the trip to be spiritually significant, but it proved to be artistically significant as well. I am still overwhelmed by the experience and will cherish several moments from this trip for the rest of my life.

In closing, thank you again for the opportunity to leave town for a couple of weeks for mission work. I'm so thankful for the leadership provided by Steve Clardy and Alison Fischer in my absence. It truly is a joy to be back home at Matthew Road!

~ Jeff

Adult Choir rehearsals have resumed and we are saving a place for YOU! Please join us at 6:30 pm on Wednesday nights, no auditions are required. Come to a rehearsal, or contact Jeff or Alison in the church office for more information. See you there!

Children's Choir & Youth Choir will resume on Wednesday, September 2nd.



## 20Somethings/College Ministries

# 20some things

Class: Sunday Morning, 9:45am  
Ed. Bldng., 2nd Flr.  
Teacher: Daniel Sweet  
Studying: Acts

Class: Wednesday Evening, 6:30pm  
Worship Center, Teller Room  
Teacher: Rachel Sullenger  
Studying: I & II Timothy

Contact Rachel at [rachel@matthewroad.org](mailto:rachel@matthewroad.org)  
or Steve at [steve@matthewroad.org](mailto:steve@matthewroad.org)  
to find out the latest events & activities!

## COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY

Class: Sunday Morning, 9:45am  
Ed. Bldng., 2nd Flr.  
Teacher: Kevin & Caitlin Marek  
Studying: various books of the Bible



Class: Sunday Evenings, 5:30pm  
Fellowship Hall  
Teacher: Jared Scott  
Studying: Francis Chan - Basics

## Missions

Missions Emphasis Coming  
in September!



## Ice Cream Social



Please bring your favorite ice cream to Fellowship Hall starting at 5:00 PM



## August 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.

August 19th: AWANA Training & Dinner, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

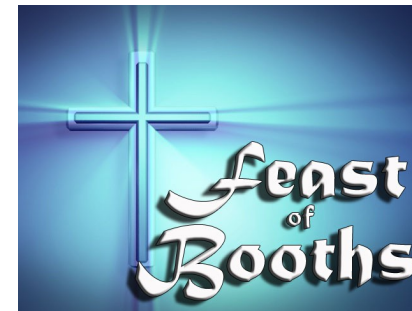
August 21st: Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center

August 23rd: Promotion Sunday for Children & Youth  
Deacon Family Luncheon, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall

August 29th: Youth Back to School Bash, see Zach or Jonathan for more info

August 30th: Ice-Cream Social, 6:15pm, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Night Dinners  
return August 26th!



Feast of Tabernacles/Booths, presented by Jews for Jesus  
Wednesday, September 30th 6:30pm, Sanctuary

"Christ in the Feast of Tabernacles" includes a clear and sensitive presentation of the gospel and it is most appropriate to invite seekers to this program. This would be a great opportunity for you to invite not only Jewish friends, but also unbelievers from any and all backgrounds, to come to your church.

# 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:

- ◇ Wacky Wednesdays 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 - Teller Room, 6:45pm

### 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 (during school year)	8:30am
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
<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
Wacky Wednesdays (children)	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:45pm
20Somethings	6:45pm
<b>Thursdays</b>	
MRA (during school year)	8:30am
<b>Fridays</b>	
Chick time at Chick-Fil-A	9:00am
<b>Saturdays</b>	
Men's Coffee Group	7:30am
(Good Day Café, Grand Prairie)	

### Church Profit & Loss through June 2015

Church Income	\$ 441,664
Church Expense	\$(426,433)
Net Ordinary Income	\$15,231

Average Morning Attendance for July: 363

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for July: 148