

“What Does the LORD Require of You and Me?”

“He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
Micah 6:8

One aspect of school that endears a teacher to students is clearly communicated requirements. A well-structured, difficult course trumps an easy, yet vague course. We need the requirements laid out for us. We want to know how to please a teacher, a parent, or a boss. During the prophetic ministry of Micah, life was not going well for Judah. The Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel and were now controlling much of the affairs in the southern kingdom. The prophetic message coming from Micah and his contemporaries (Isaiah, Amos) revealed that God was using the Assyrian kingdom as a divine rebuke of the dishonesty, the internal strife, and the idolatry of Judah. Like a failing student near the end of the semester, Judah came to God looking for an escape from their mess. They asked, “What does God require from us to make this calamity go away?” Like a failing student in a panic, Judah even came to God with some suggestions of makeup work and even the offer of gifts. They hoped their extravagant efforts might get them out of their bad grade. “God, what if we bring you some offerings like a thousand rams for sacrifice or ten thousand rivers of oil?” Surely God would be impressed with such tremendous expressions of religion. Whether a student can bribe a teacher in an attempt to garner better scores is doubtful. However, with God this type of bribery always fails. It always fails because we can practice all types of external religious activities – church attendance, giving, and extravagant singing, without engaging our hearts.

God ultimately requires our heart. Any external religious expressions must proceed out of a genuine heart for God and others. Church attendance purely from habit or obligation, falls well short of the passion to experience God that marks a relationship with Him. Giving of time, money, and other resources, must display a joyful love worthy of a relationship with the Creator of all resources. All religious activities such as singing, praying, reading of scripture, participating in the Lord's Supper, and experiencing baptism, are empty actions apart from an abiding affection for God whereby these actions provide us a means to express our ongoing walk with God.

In order to be in right relationship with God, to

walk with Him, to delight in Him and to have God delight in our lives requires some very specific and clearly communicated items. God gives us three foundational principles that regulates all religious expressions. What does God required? He requires three things, all of which reflect a transformed condition of the heart. 1) To do justice. Judah crumbled under the oppression of her most vulnerable citizens at the hands of the rich and powerful. This requirement calls for us to not only restrain from any oppression of the helpless, but to stand in the gap for the oppressed in the world today. Proverbs 21:3 says it this way, “to do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.” Doing the right thing in the sight of God and for the care of others requires a change of heart, will, mind, emotion. Offering a thousand animals produces a significant religious show that can be done without ever engaging the heart. 2) To love kindness. There was strife among the people of Judah - harsh words and harsh treatment. Kindness must mark the children of God. Paul says in Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” God requires kindness for the nation of Israel, for a church, and for a home. Kindness reflects the true heart of the person who is living according to God's requirements for relationships. 3) To walk humbly with your God. Humility in our relationship with God acknowledges two critical truths. First, our humility toward God acknowledges how great He really is. Second, our humility toward God acknowledges how dependent on Him we really are. This humility of heart proceeds out of our walk with God and spills over into our relationships with others. If we live under the weight of our absolute dependence on the God who made us, we will live with humility toward others as well.

Religion can be a curse. We at times treat our religious expression as a means to an end. We want things from God, but we do not want God Himself. We want the benefits of the relationship with God, but we do not want the relationship with God. A disengaged heart, no matter how religious, does not meet the requirements of God. God looks at the heart. Religion often focuses on our external actions. No amount of external religious expression can cloak a heart that is far from God. God looks at the heart and what He requires from our hearts is justice, kindness, and humility.

~ Daniel



Mary Hill Davis Offering

Week of Prayer for Texas Missions September 13th - 20th



The theme of the 2015 Mary Hill Davis Offering® and Week of Prayer for Texas Missions® is **Thirst**. Physical thirst is the craving for water. Spiritual thirst can be described very simply as the craving for God. We all have cravings. We crave safety. We crave acceptance. We crave belonging. We crave significance. We crave love. Sometimes we crave forbidden pleasures. Often we crave things. Just as our bodies crave and thirst, so do our souls. We would not think of depriving our bodies of water, so why would we deprive our souls of Jesus?

During the Week of Prayer for Texas Missions®, we will be invited to reflect on our personal relationships with Christ. We will be challenged to be thirsty for God's Word and His presence. Then when our thirst has been quenched with the Spirit of the Lord, we are commanded by Christ to turn our eyes to neighbors who need the Living Water only God can provide.

On Sunday, September 13th, you will receive a prayer guide after worship to help you know how to pray for Texas missions. The church goal for the Mary Hill Davis Offering is \$8,000. Envelopes will be in the Worship Center chair backs. Please begin praying now for how God would use you in giving and offering a cup of cold water and the Living Water to those who need it.

Giving Information

Summer has come to an end! With that, comes the realization that 2015 is almost over as well. In 4 short months, we will welcome in 2016 and tax season will begin. Keeping that in mind, please find below a few quick reminders with regards to contributions and giving statements:

1. In order to receive a year end giving statement in January, please be certain that the church office has your complete & correct address. If you are unsure, please email your address to crystal@matthewroad.org and I'll be happy to check for you.
2. Tax deductible donations may only be made to ministries that MRBC is currently supporting. If you are unsure if we are supporting a specific ministry, please email crystal@matthewroad.org before making said donation. Any donations received for organizations that we are not supporting will be refunded unless said gift is re-designated.
3. Please remember that contributions to individuals are not tax deductible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me or call me and I'll be happy to work through the details with you. Thank you! ~ Crystal

Children's Ministry



Wednesday Nights, for kids ages 3* - 6th grade
6:30pm - 8:00pm

*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 Nights 5:30pm
Front Lawn of
Worship Center



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! For K - 6th Grade.

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).



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 about our program.

Student Ministry

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



Hey leaders and parents! Here is the youth schedule for September:

September 12th -

Back to School Bash - \$10 at Matthew Road, we will be tag teaming with FBC Grand Prairie & the Oaks and we will do a unified outreach together this year, 6pm-1pm

September 13th -

Parent Meeting in the SMAC (Common Grounds) after 11:00am service

September 23rd -

See You At The Pole @all schools

Bible Studies Have Begun!

High School Guys (9-12th) @ Geisendorffs
Mondays 6:30pm (Tim Wittman)

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

High School Guys (Students in area) @ Kings
Mondays 6:30pm (Weston Southers)

Middle School Guys @ Hines
Mondays 6pm-8pm (Jonathan Phipps)

Middle School Girls @ Halsells
Mondays 7:00pm - 8:00pm (Tiffanye Phipps)

Athletes Guys Bible Study @ MRBC
Mondays 6:00pm (Zach)

Also be praying for these students and teachers as they help start small groups/Bible studies at their schools: P7 Bible Clubs with Preston Rose and Nick King @Dubiski, FCA @ South Grand Prairie with Ms. Traci, FCA at Truman M.S. with Mr. Wade, FCA at Reagan M.S. with Brent, FCA at Kennedy Leadership Academy, FCA at Arlington H.S. with Christine Wehrli, Fine Arts Academy Lunch Bible study, and Jackson M.S. FCA with Sam Bonzi.

Women's Ministry

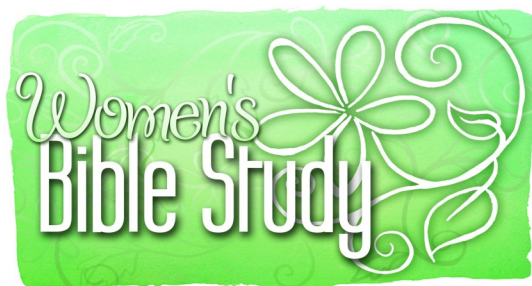
Women's Conference "She Teaches" September 26, 2015

Time Begin	Time End	Event
8:30	8:55	Donut Holes and coffee
9:00	9:15	Worship
9:15	9:30	Intro - She Teaches
9:30	10:10	Tamar - Dr. Hedin
10:10	10:30	Coffee Break
10:30	11:10	Rahab - Diana Hines
11:15	11:50	Ruth I - Kim Sweet
11:50	12:30	Lunch
12:30	12:45	Worship
12:45	1:25	Ruth II - Kim Sweet
1:25	1:45	Cookie break
1:45	2:15	Bathsheba - Rachel Sullenger
2:15	2:45	Mary - Cyndi King
2:45	3:00	Worship & Dismiss

These women are in the lineage of Christ in Matthew's Gospel. They were intentionally included when other women were excluded. This causes us to question, what lesson does she teach?

We will discover them, or rediscover them and the lessons that ... *She Teaches*

Cost: \$10.00 - for the day
\$5.00 for childcare per child



Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings
Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich
- the book of Timothy
Joy Richards & Chris Anderson
- the book of Acts

Sunday nights
Meg Trihus & Others
- the book of Acts

Wednesday Nights
Cyndi King
- the book of Luke

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A
Cyndi King
- The book of Luke



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



Music Ministry

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning
And Your faithfulness by night,
With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp,
With resounding music upon the lyre.
For You, O Lord, have made me glad by what You have done,
I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands.
Psalm 92:1-4 (NASB)

I am so excited to have the choir leading once again on Sunday mornings! "How Great Thou Art" is one of my all-time favorite hymns, and I had been waiting a couple of weeks for the choir's return before scheduling it to be sung again. It's undeniably moving to hear so many voices joined together, boldly singing of our Lord's work on earth: creating, sustaining, saving, and restoring.

The story of how this hymn came to popular use in America is truly fascinating! In 1885, a 26-year-old Swedish Minister named Carl Boberg wrote a poem titled "O Mighty God". This was published, paired with an old Swedish melody, and largely forgotten. Years later, an English missionary named Stuart Hine heard the song while serving in Russia. Drawing inspiration from his experiences in the Carpathian mountains, he heavily reworked the text and revised the tune. Finally, evangelist J. Edwin Orr heard the hymn being sung by a Naga tribe living in Assam, India. He brought the hymn to America to be used in his evangelistic meetings in 1953 and was soon popularized by George Beverly Shea. What an amazing story! More details can be found in a wonderful book called "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan.
~ Jeff

We hope that you and your family will consider joining our musical ensembles this Fall. It's never too late to join and we have a place for you on Wednesday nights!

♫ Youth Choir	5:45-6:15	Choir Room (behind the sanctuary)
♫ Children's Choir	6:00-6:30	Education Building (second floor)
♫ Adult Choir & Band	6:30-7:30	Sanctuary
♫ Contemporary Band	7:45-8:30	Sanctuary

Newcomer's Class & Lunch



New Class Date!
Sunday, September 13th
(previous date was the 20th)
12:15pm Fellowship Hall
Lunch & Childcare Provided

We have established an on-going class, which provides basic information about our church. 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. Please RSVP to the Welcome Desk, or to the church office at christy@matthewroad.org, or call 972-641-2717. Lunch and childcare are provided.



Mark your calendars:

- ♻ **September 26th** - Women's Conference
- ♻ **October 3rd** - 1st Monday Trade Days, Canton Tx
- ♻ **April 22nd - 24th, 2016** - Women's Retreat

20Somethings

20some things

- ☺ September 20th - Free Rangers game AND David Crowder Concert. Leaving church at 1:00PM.
- ☺ November 6th - 7th: Singles Retreat, cost \$60
- ☺ June, 2016: Destin, cost \$350
- ☺ August, 2016: Mission trip to Mexico, cost \$250

Classes:

- ~ Sunday Morning 9:45 am: Daniel Sweet leading Explore God, part of the Explore God.com movement (Ed Bldg)
- ~ Sunday Night 5:30 pm: Jared Scott leading Basics with Francis Chan (Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Wednesday Night 6:45pm: Steve Hines leading Acts/Epistles (Teller Room)

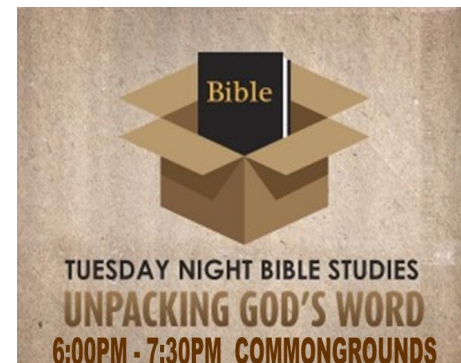


Contact Rachel at rachel@matthewroad.org to find out the latest events & activities!

College Ministries

COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY

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



Contact Steve at
steve@matthewroad.org
to find out the latest
events & activities!

College
Fall Retreat
2015!
Sept. 18th - 20th
see Steve
for info



September 2015 Events & Activities

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

- September 2nd:** Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30pm, Conference Room
- September 3rd:** Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- September 12th:** Back to School Bash, see Zach or Jonathan
- September 13th:** NewComer's Class & Lunch, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall
- September 18th - 20th:** College Retreat, see Steve for more info
- September 18th:** Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center **Must have reservation. Please contact Cyndi*
- September 19th:** Deacon Training, 8:30am, Fellowship Hall
- September 20th:** 20Somethings at the Ranger game, meet at church at 1:00pm
- September 23rd:** Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30pm, Conference Room
- September 26th:** Women's Conference, 8:30am, Worship Center
- September 30th:** Feast of Tabernacles/Booths, 6:30pm, Sanctuary



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 our 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
- ◇ MD² for children - Education Building, 5:30pm

Wednesday Nights:

- ◇ AWANA 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

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	
K2 Primary Academy	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
Tuesdays	
MRA (during school year)	8:30am
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
College Bible Study	6:00pm
Wednesdays	
K2 Primary Academy	8:45am
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 (children)	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:45pm
20Somethings	6:45pm
Thursdays	
MRA (during school year)	8:30am
Fridays	
Chick time at Chick-Fil-A	9:00am
Saturdays	
Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30am

Average Morning Attendance for August: 379

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for August: 144

Financials as of July 31, 2015

Budget Income	\$ 507,423
Budget Expense	\$(490,338)
Net Budget	\$17,085