

Anxiety, Fear, Distrust, Burnout

We live in stressful times. We see it in nations as refugees pour out of one nation and into others. We see it as evil men commit atrocities against others for incredibly frivolous reasons. We see on playgrounds and in classrooms. We see the stress in workplace situations and broken relationships in the home.

(NLT) "25That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? 28 And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?" Matthew 6:25-30

Do Not Worry

Worry is a sin. Worry violates the words of Jesus because it undermines our understanding of God. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must bring every area of our life into conformity with His desires for us. He desires that we trust God with everything in our life. When we worry, we are not trusting. When we are trusting God, we do not worry. But can we really trust God? Jesus gives examples of God's trustworthiness from nature. Consider the birds and consider the flowers. If God loves them enough to feed them and clothe them, He will take care of you. There are two value

statements contained here within this dialogue. First, with reference to the birds Jesus says, "aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?" Second, with reference to the flowers Jesus says, "that they are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow." In God's eyes we are far more valuable than the birds and He preserves us far longer than the average flower. However, neither the birds nor the flowers stress out about their provisions from God. If birds and flowers can trust God with their lives, then we can trust Him even more since He loves us more and cares for us longer.

"25At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. 26Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. 27All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. 28Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:25-30

Find Rest for Your Souls

We can get so weary in this life. The daily struggle of getting ourselves to work or school, the constant battle with making ends meet, the conflicts we face with others, all of these things wear us down. There is a rest that God alone can offer. This offer of rest goes beyond some human concept of a vacation. God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, offers a permanent rest. The imagery here is striking. Oxen were used in the

preparation of farmlands all over Palestine during the time of Christ. The yoke fit over the shoulders of the animal allowing the farmer to direct the path of the oxen. Jesus came into a world under heavy oppression. Some of the oppression came from the political and social-economic conditions. Some of the oppression came in the form of unrealistic religious standards hoisted upon the masses by a select "wise and intelligent" few. Much of the oppression came from the same realities we face today, personal sin and rebellion. These forces from within and from without battled against the crowds following Jesus. He saw their plight. He understood their weaknesses. He desired to offer them rest. However, the divine rest came with a condition. This rest cannot be experienced by anyone apart from the Son of God. "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him." Jesus sets the primary condition for divine rest that those seeking rest must find their rest in Him. He also reveals a second condition. We will not find rest because we will not come to Him if we are arrogant, self-sufficient, wise in our own eyes, or too smart for our own good. Instead God has revealed His Son to "infants" who are dependent and needy. If we are humble before God and we seek His Son, Christ Jesus offers us divine rest. He removes the yoke of oppression and replaces it with a new yoke that "is easy." Hear the voice of the Savior crying out over the burdened crowd. "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." His love beckons us to come, burdens and all, and follow Him. There, we will find rest.

We are nearing the time of year that has such potential for joy, excitement, anticipation and fun. The lights and sounds will soon begin to fill our everyday spaces like stores, homes, and our church. Unfortunately, often with this seasonal anticipation, there can be so much stress. We may be tempted to worry about how we will make ends meet. We may be anxious about the stressful preparation for events. Christ offers to us peace and rest. Like the angels said to the shepherds those many years ago, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace with those in whom He is pleased." In Christ, God is pleased with us. In Christ, God is glorified in us. In Christ, we are at peace and at rest. Be anxious for nothing. Rest in Christ. May God grant us a peaceful, restful celebration of the birth of the Savior.

~ Daniel

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.

Sunday School

Join us every Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45am as we journey through the Gospel Project.

This fall we restart
"In the Beginning"



Student Ministry

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

December 18th -
 Christmas Party @ the Stovers
 126 Monticello, Mansfield TX 76063

December 23rd -
 No Collide (no Wednesday night activities due to Christmas Eve service the next night!)

December 30th -
 Youth Service Day 9am-8pm
 Serving @Mission Arlington, lunch and ice skating,
 games then finish off with Dinner and Collide

January 23rd -
 Youth Parent Training Breakfast
 Our first youth parent training & breakfast, which includes a guest speaker on subjects dealing with your youth, and you!
 8am-11am, Cost: \$10, @ Matthew Road Baptist Church, Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.
 Sign up and tickets available in January **Will keep you posted

Music Ministry



Children's Choir: 6:00-6:30, Education Building (2nd floor)

Youth Choir: 5:45-6:15, Choir Room (Behind Sanctuary)

Adult Choir: 6:30-7:30, Sanctuary

Grace



Christmas season is almost here and, as has been our tradition in years past, we would like to provide gifts for all of the children in the orphanage. The current political situation in Mexico, the import/export tax law requirements and the time restraints, necessitate that this be completed a little differently than in years past. Therefore, we are requesting monetary donations for the purchase of gifts for the children. Gifts and clothing will be purchased in Mexico to insure appropriate fit and style.

If this is something you would like to participate in. please drop your offering in an envelope marked "Grace Christmas."

***In order to get the monies to the orphanage in time,
we are requesting that all gifts be given by December 6th.**

2015 Giving

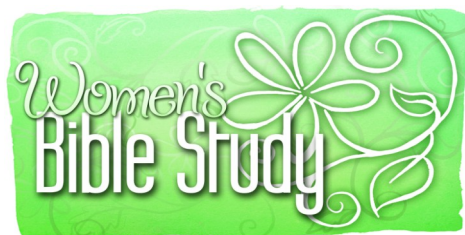


Please note:

The last day to turn in offering for the 2014 tax year is Sunday, December 27th. Statements will be mailed at the end of January to the address we have on file for you. If your address has changed, please email the church office at crystal@matthewroad.org.

**if you are not able to drop your giving in the plate by Sunday, December 27th, please have it postmarked by December 31st. This will be credited to the 2015 year. If your giving is postmarked after December 31st, it will credit to the 2016 year.*

Women's Ministry



Weekly Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings

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

Sunday nights

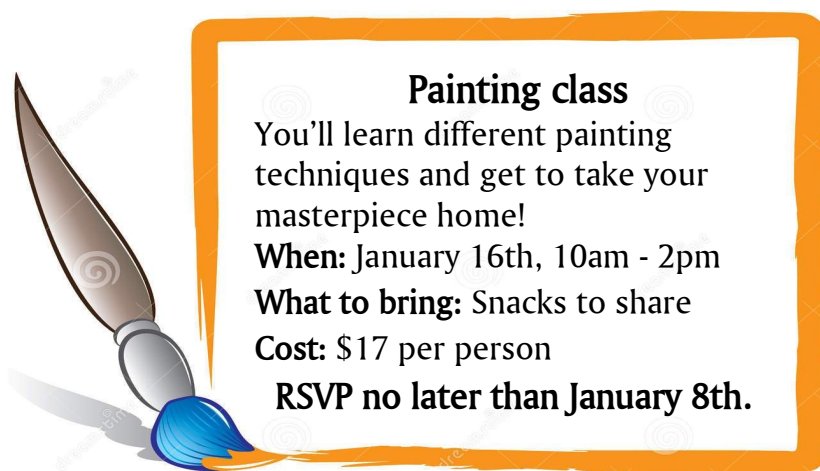
Meg Trihus & Others
- the book of Acts

Wednesday Nights

Cyndi King
- the book of Luke

Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A

Cyndi King
- The book of Luke



Women's Retreat

March 4 - 5, 2016

Waco, Texas

Beth Moore Living Proof, Live

- Cost: \$100.00 per person, if staying 4 to a room. This includes cost for the conference & hotel room. (Fairfield)
- \$55.00 due at registration
- Saturday breakfast is included, you will be responsible for dinner Friday night and lunch Saturday.

For more information, you can go to the website:
<http://www.lifeway.com/n/Product-Family/Living-Proof-Live>

Questions, or to RSVP, please contact Rachel
at rachel@matthewroad.org

**Last day to register is
2/28/16!**

Lottie Moon

Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

WHY GIVE? BECAUSE GOD DESERVES THE WORSHIP OF ALL PEOPLE!

And we — who are redeemed and made new in Christ — are compelled to proclaim the gospel, the only hope for the billions who have never heard of Jesus.

Simply put, your giving enables missionaries to be sent to multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

Our church will observe the Week of Prayer for International Missions November 29-December 6. Prayer Guides will be given out at the end of each worship service on November 29. Offering envelopes for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions will be in the Worship Center chair-backs.

Our church goal for the Lottie Moon offering is \$9,500.

Please pray and seek God's will as to how He wants you to partner with our international missionaries in proclaiming the gospel.



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).

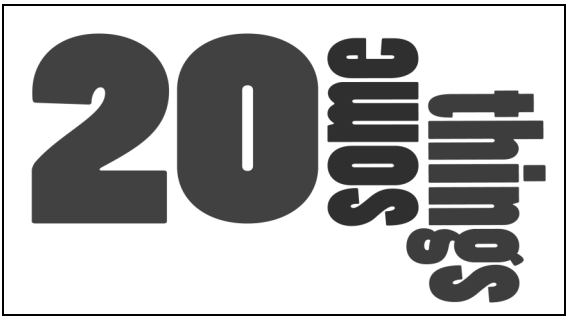
At our program, your child will learn about sharing, healthy living, academics, music, American Sign Language, the Bible, manners, cooperation and giving. It is a time for both you and your children to enjoy.

Schedule: We are a Monday & Wednesday preschool. Our hours are 9am - 2pm.

Tuition and Fees: Please call for tuition, fees and policy information.

**Pease call Cyndi King, at 972-641-7380,
for more information about our program.**

20Somethings & College Ministries



Activities:

- ☺ February 6, 2016 : Single Conference
- ☺ June 25 - 30, 2016: Destin, cost \$350
- ☺ August, 2016: Mission trip to Mexico, cost \$250

Classes:

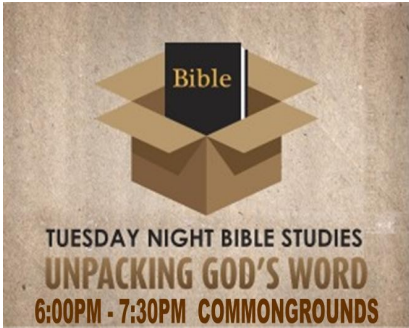
- ~ Sunday Morning 9:45 am: Daniel Sweet leading Explore God, part of the Explore God.com movement (Ed Bldg)
- ~ Sunday Night 5:30 pm: Jared Scott leading a study in Ephesians (Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Wednesday Night 6:45pm: Steve Hines leading Acts/Epistles (Teller Room)

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

COLLEGE
BIBLE STUDY

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

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



SINGLE

GOD'S GIFTS: OUR PLANS
HOSTED BY MRBC COLLEGE & 20SOMETHINGS MINISTRIES
COMING FEBRUARY 6TH!
WORSHIP~LAUGHTER~SPEAKER~PIE BAR~
PANEL DISCUSSION~COFFEE

~ DETAILS TO FOLLOW ~

CONTACT:
rachel@matthewroad.org or stephen@matthewroad.org

December 2015 Events & Activities

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

- December 3rd:** Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws
- December 4th:** College Christmas Party, please see Stephen
- December 12th:** 20Somethings Christmas Party, please see Rachel
Young Marrieds Class Christmas Party, please see Daniel
- December 13th:** Joy Richards Class Christmas Party, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall
Deacon Conference Call Meeting, 4:30pm
- December 18th:** Youth Christmas Party, at the Stovers, please see Zach
Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center *must RSVP
- December 19th:** Boomers Class Christmas Party, 5:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- December 23rd:** No evening services or activities
- December 24th:** Candlelight Service (with Childcare), 5:30pm, Sanctuary
Candlelight Service (no Childcare), 7:00pm, Sanctuary
- December 24th - January 1st:** Church Office closed for Christmas & New Years
- December 30th:** No evening services or activities

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 November: 379
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for November: 151

Financials as of November 13, 2015	
Budget Income	\$ 758,093
Budget Expense	\$ (755,466)
Net Budget	\$ 2,627