



The Great Declaration

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:13-17

Caesarea Philippi was known as a center of pagan celebrations and worship. A natural waterfall and associated pool provided the setting for Greco-Roman styled carousing. Jesus withdrew from the Jewish areas, giving an opportunity to prepare Himself and the disciples for His triumphant entry, crucifixion and resurrection. In this pagan setting, on the verge of the most important moment in human and eternal history, Jesus tests the disciples by posing this question, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” As with many theological debates, the prevailing winds of the day reflect a variety of possibilities: “John, Elijah, Jeremiah or some other Old Testament prophet.” Jesus’ initial question and the disciples’ answers follow a more academic approach, a sort of polling to determine the mood of the culture about the Son of Man. The second question is far more personal. In the first He refers to Himself in a distant, third-person manner – “the Son of Man” and He refers to the opinions of others in a distant, third-person manner – “people.” The second question gets intensely personal on two fronts. Jesus refers to Himself in the first-person as “I am” and to the disciples in the direct and second-person manner as “you.” This is the natural progression when it comes to the person of Christ. Every person on the planet must grapple with His identity. It often begins in a rather academic manner. The individual hears about Christianity through a friend or radio

program or through a book or maybe they attend a church. They begin to contemplate the nature of religion in general, and the claims of Jesus in particular. However, no one can remain at a distance. Jesus does not intend for us to function in this third-person manner. Ultimately the identity of Jesus Christ is intensely personal. It is impossible to be a Christian from a distance. Christ calls us in close. He calls us personally. He calls us to a commitment of thought and life. “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter’s response is especially striking in light of the location of their discussion – walking among the idolatrous statutes representing dead religions and dead gods in Caesarea Philippi. “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” This is the defining issue of our day. Religious debates will rage. What religion best represents humanity before God? This question will rage but it misses the point. The question is not “what is the best way for us to reach God?” The question is “what has God done to reach down to us?” Religion pursues God on our terms. Jesus Christ pursues us on God’s terms. That is why Simon’s confession must become the confession of each and every person. This confession goes beyond a mere intellectual ascent. This confession goes beyond religious posturing. The implication is clear. Our only means to a relationship with the living God is through His resurrected Son. The relationship God makes with us through Christ creates a natural response on our part. If Jesus really is the Christ, the Son of the living God, our intense, personal loyalty must follow that confession. Jesus Christ is the living Son of God, crucified and risen again from the dead. He demands my unending worship and loyalty.

~ Daniel

Con’t on pg 2



Get Connected



Want to be kept “in the loop”?

Check out our Monthly Newsletter, at the Welcome Desk or online at www.matthewroad.org.

In addition, we have a Weekly Announcement Sheet, also at the Welcome Desk.

Want to receive our weekly email?

Send an email with your request to mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org.



Missed a sermon?

Want to share our sermon series with a friend or family member?

Check out our website and listen to or download our sermons.
www.matthewroad.org

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
Education Building
2nd floor



We are studying the Beatitudes. 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.



Student Ministry

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



January 10th -

Youth Workers' Luncheon @12:15pm (after Morning 11:00am service)
We will meet til 1:45pm. We have some new things to go over and we need your input on it. I'll provide lunch, updates, and schedule for upcoming year, and we have some important decisions coming up regarding the youth program so we need everyone here!
Please RSVP to Diana Hines and Zach if you are coming -
(diana@matthewroad.org; zach@matthewroad.org)

January 23rd -

Youth Parent Breakfast, 9:00am,
Cost: \$5, Located at Matthew Road Baptist Church Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
**This is our 1st one! The morning will include breakfast and a guest speaker on subjects dealing with your youth and you!
Tickets are available! See Zach.



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 Groups

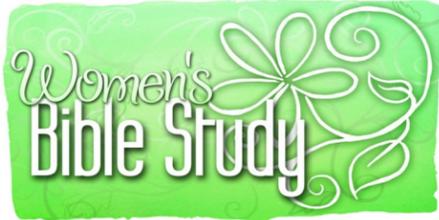
Wonder about how faith and mental health intersect in today's world? Do you feel like some people have told you that, if you just believed enough or prayed enough, then you or your loved one would not be struggling with a mental health difficulty? Come Experience Hope. Experience Perspective. Experience Grace. Here is what a couple of people have said about being involved in Grace Groups at Matthew Road:

"Grace group has become a new staple in my life where I look forward to this time of fellowship and community each week. The group provides a safe and comfortable place to be able to open up and share about the struggles of living with a mental health condition, and to look at truths from the Bible and how it applies to mental health with people who understand the struggles and difficulties I am blessed and thankful that God brought this group of incredible individuals into my life to help me know I'm not alone." (A Living Grace Group member)

"Being a part of a family grace group has provided me with a safe place to share about the ups and downs of having a loved one with a mental health difficulty. Each week we have a different topic we cover that helps us think about how to be an effective support to our loved one. The group doesn't try to "fix" either me or my loved one, but supports, encourages and prays with me." (A Family Grace Group member)

Family Grace Group meets on Mondays from 6:30-8:00. It is aimed at those who have a family member with a mental health difficulty. Contact Greg or Meg Trihus for more information (972-372-9671 or mtrihus@gmail.com)
Living Grace Group meets on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00. It is aimed at those with a mental health difficulty who are striving for recovery. Contact George Fritts for more information. (682-422-6722 or gfritts@pcintern@gmail.com)

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



Ellen Van Treuren is offering a painting class to the Women of MRBC. Come join us for this time of fellowship - you will come away with a beautiful painting.

Space is limited you must reserve your spot. Make your reservation to rachel@matthewroad.org by January 11th; payment due at registration.

Who: Women of MRBC
When: January 16, 10am - 1pm
Where: Fellowship Hall
Cost: \$17.00
What to bring: Your Special Salad to share
No childcare is provided

6 P M - Monday's begins January 11th 2016



SAVE THE DATE

- January 16th - Painting with a Master
- February 19th - Women's Worship Evening (WWE) There will be a pie glass, coffee and worship. More info to come!
- March 4th-5th - Living Proof Women's Conf.
- July 6th - 11th - Trip to Destin, cost \$350, more info to come

LIVING PROOF live

Last day to register is 2/28/16!

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.

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

NewComer's Class & Luncheon

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 Sunday, January 10th, at 12:15pm, in our Fellowship Hall. Lunch and childcare are included. Please rsvp to the Welcome Desk or email mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org.



PAW



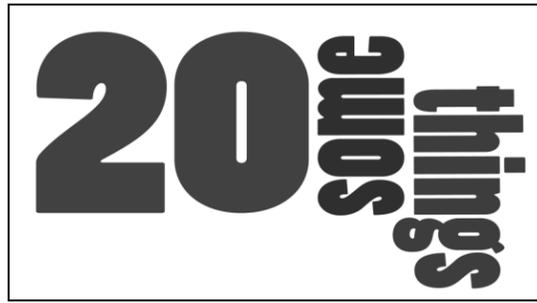
Preschool Academy of Westchester (PAW) is a quality preschool program for children ages 9 months - 5 years old. Your children will enjoy their classroom activities planned around our curriculum, "Wee Learn" (published by LifeWay).

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.
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 & Singles



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!

SINGLES

Night of Praise, talk, food and fun

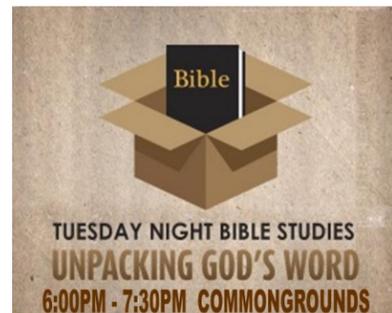
When: February 5th, 7PM
 Where: Matthew Road Baptist Church, Common Grounds
 What: Game - Battle of the Genders
 Worship, Devotional, Panel Discussion, Pie Bar
 Cost: Free

Join us for a night of fun. Two the Fridays before S1ngles Awareness Day (Valentines Day) we will have a time together. Three churches are joining together to celebrate our life in Jesus, play games, worship together and eat pie. Who can ask for more? To sign up contact: rachel@matthewroad.org or stephen@matthewroad.org

College

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!



January 2016 Events & Activities

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

- January 1st** - Church office closed in observance of New Year's Holiday
- January 6th** - 20Somethings F1rst Conference, Gateway Church, leaving MRBC at 5:30pm
- January 7th** - Young@Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- January 10th** - Youth Leader Lunch and Meeting, 12:15pm, CommonGrounds
 NewComer's Class & Lunch, 12:15pm, FH
- January 11th** - Women's Faith, Fellowship and Accountability Group begins, 6:00pm FH
- January 16th** - Women's Painting Class, 10:00am, FH
- January 23rd** - Youth Parent Breakfast & Guest Speaker, 8:00am, FH

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

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| 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 |
| Women's Bible Study | 6:00pm |
| 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 December: 375
 Average 7:17 Service Attendance for December: 141

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
 2 Corinthians 5:17

Happy New Year to our Church Family and Friends!