



"For the Lord is good,  
His steadfast love endures forever..."  
Psalm 100:5

Matthew Road Baptist Church ... a place to call home

# HOME PAGE

JULY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 7



Goodbye...

Church Family,

As I'm sure many of you are aware of, I have resigned from my position as college minister and will be leaving Matthew Road at the end of June. I have accepted a position with a young church-plant in McKinney, Texas. While Kristen and I will both miss the college students, staff, and entire church family at Matthew Road, we are also very excited for this opportunity for new ministry that lies ahead of us. At our new church, Redeemed Fellowship Church, the role I have accepted is the bi-vocational worship pastor. In addition, Kristen and I will be helping the pastor and his wife launch the youth ministry. We covet your prayers as we transition into this new season, as I search for a second job and as the church gets on its feet.

Finally, I want to be sure and say thank you on behalf of Kristen and I. We are deeply indebted to Matthew Road Baptist Church for the innumerable ways you have loved us and invested into our lives and my ministry development. We will remember you in our prayers with great thankfulness.

In Christ's love,

Stephen Clardy

## Lost and Found

*"So He told them this parable, saying, <sup>4</sup>What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' <sup>7</sup>I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." Luke 15:3-7*

In our summer reading program, we just completed *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, by W. Phillip Keller. Keller has a unique perspective on the topic of sheep and shepherds. He ran a sheep ranch for eight years before becoming a pastor. In the book, he shared the various weaknesses and frailties of sheep. The example of the relationship between sheep and shepherd provides a great picture of our relationship to God. We are weak, susceptible to trouble, defenseless, prone to attacks from wild animals and parasites, prone to wander away from the fold and continually fearful. The difference between a restful, healthy flock comes from the care of the shepherd. The occupation of shepherd provided Joseph, Moses and David with needed training for leading others in the midst of transition and crisis. The parable of sheep and shepherd provided Jesus several teaching points as well. In John 10 we find that Jesus describes Himself as the "Great Shepherd." He used this same illustration in communicating the ongoing ministry of Simon Peter. After the resurrection, Jesus told Simon Peter, "Feed My sheep." Peter was now to view his ministry to the church as the under shepherd work of ministry to the followers of Christ.

In Luke 15 we read a series of parables told by Jesus Christ. All of them described Christ's care and compassion for sinners. The context of these parables is significant. Many individuals of poor repute have gathered around Jesus. The religious establishment expects a holy man to withdrawal from the rabble. "This man receives sinners and eats with them," they complain. Instead of a lecture, Jesus turned to the use of parables. One of the parables Jesus told in Luke 15 is drawn from this illustration of shepherd and sheep. The underlying implication of the parable is this. If a shepherd will go to great effort to recover a lost sheep, how much more will God do to recover lost people. As with the 23rd Psalm, the vivid imagery takes us to 1st century Palestine. Imagine the compassionate shepherd looking over his flock. 1, 2, 3 . . . 98, 99? He quickly recounts hoping it is a simply mistake. . . . 97, 98, 99. Oh no, one really is missing. All types of peril runs through the shepherd's mind - lion or bear attack, drowning, a fall from a cliff, or just stuck in the bushes with risk of dehydration. Off he goes, in the most likely direction of this wanderer. Finally, he hears the bleating of the panicked animal. Lifting it over his shoulders, he carries it back to the flock and celebrates its return to the watchful care of its shepherd.

How much more so with Christ as our Good Shepherd? Is He not much more compassionate than any mere shepherd? How much more so with us? Are not humans much more valuable than sheep? If you feel far from Him today, know that He draws ever nearer to you. He loves you with an everlasting love. He knows your fears and failures. He is intimately aware of your propensity to wander away from His care. He celebrates your return and will gladly restore you to His flock. Are you adrift? Are you trapped in some sin that controls you? Have you sought other pastures in search of something greater only to find yourself in bondage? Humble yourself before the gracious Good Shepherd. Acknowledge your weaknesses. Confess your sins and express your love for Him. He already loves you and stands ready to bring you home.

~ Daniel



This Fall, we will have 40 days of focused individual and corporate prayer. Daniel will be writing a devotional book to guide us through these days.

Special prayer times will be Sunday & Wednesday Nights, beginning Sunday, August 21st.

More info to come!



**Sunday, August 21st  
12:15pm, Fellowship Hall**

Since we have people attending our church from every type of church background, we have established an ongoing class, which provides basic information about our church. 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 the opportunity to ask questions and grow in your understanding of the ministries of our church. Lunch & Childcare are provided. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office at [mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org](mailto:mrbcinfo@matthewroad.org), or call 972-641-2717 to RSVP for this class and childcare, if needed.

Children's Ministry



Wednesday Nights, for kids  
completed Kindergarten - 6th grade  
6:45pm - 8:00pm

Summer Verses - Come finish your Awana book  
or work on extra credit verses from 6:30pm - 6:45pm,  
in the Ed Bldng.

Sunday Nights 5:30pm  
Education Building  
2nd floor



This Summer we are studying the book of  
Matthew! Join us as we learn what it  
means to be a disciple committed to  
going out into the world to make  
disciples! For Completed K - 6th Grade.



Sunday School

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

Camp 3:17  
Sports and Arts Day Camp  
July 18th - 22nd,  
Monday-Friday,  
9am - 2pm



Kids will learn beginner skills for  
basketball, soccer, baseball, and softball  
on Monday/Wednesday/Friday  
and will choose Fine Arts tracks to  
participate in on Tuesday  
and Thursday.

All families are invited to join us Sunday  
night for a cook out and the showing of  
our highlights video at church. Come as  
you are!

Sign up at  
matthewroad.org/ministries/summer

Recruiting Sports and Arts Camp Volunteers!

We are now recruiting volunteers to help at our FREE Sports and Arts Camp to be held  
Monday through Friday, July 18-22, 9a-2p. We need individuals (13 & up) to lead small groups  
(like VBS tour guides), teach rotations (basketball, soccer, baseball/softball, art, drama, and  
music!), and even help serve lunch to our leaders! We NEED you!

If you are interested in helping, please contact Brittany ASAP at [brittanymrbc@gmail.com](mailto:brittanymrbc@gmail.com).

\*Adult volunteers must pass background check screening.\*

Summer Reading Seminar

Wednesday evenings at 6:45 PM in the library, through July 20th

Join us as we read and discuss these impactful books together,  
with the goal of developing our spiritual walk.

July 6 (Devotional)

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23  
By W. Phillip Keller

July 13 (Theological/Devotional)

God Loves You  
By David Jeremiah

July 20 (Biographical)

God's Double Agent  
By Bob Fu

Student Ministry

IMPACT CAMP

Thank you so much for your gifts and prayers! Youth Camp was awesome!  
We took our largest crew to camp this year -  
30 students at High School Camp, and 30 students with helpers at Middle School Camp!  
God moved at camp these last two weeks, and our unchurched students heard the gospel,  
and some responded - Praise Jesus!

Here are the upcoming events & activities:

July 14th -  
Youth Serve Day, 9:00am - 5:00pm

July 27th - August 2nd -  
Junior/Senior Mission Trip to Portland, Oregon (\*closed registration)

Bible Studies: Bible Studies will start back up in September!

Get Connected

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](http://www.matthewroad.org)



Women's Ministry



**Weekly Bible Studies:**

**Sunday mornings**

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

**Sunday nights**

Meg Trihus - the Epistles

**Monday Nights**

*(please contact the office for the summer schedule)*  
Nina Wilhite - OT Survey, Beginning  
September 12th

**Wednesday Nights**

Cyndi King - the book of Luke

**Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A**

Cyndi King - The book of Luke

**Destin**  
**July 6th - 11th**  
Please join us in prayer for the ladies  
attending this dynamic event!  
*We have filled all our available spots, however,*

For those going to Destin, we will have a brief meeting  
on Sunday, June 26th at 5:00pm in the Conference Room.  
Please contact Rachel if you are unable  
to attend the meeting.

*Women's*  
**Prayer Breakfast**  
Saturday, August 20th  
9:00am - 11:00pm, Fellowship Hall  
Come join us as we enjoy sweet fellowship and  
prayer time together. Breakfast will be provided.  
Please RSVP to [rachel@matthewroad.org](mailto:rachel@matthewroad.org)  
or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

Ice Cream Social



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

Parents Night Out



We no longer always meet on the third Friday of each month,  
so check out the new dates:

**July 15th**  
**No PNO in August**

**Please note: You must RSVP to [cyndikking@msn.com](mailto:cyndikking@msn.com) to ensure your child's spot.**

**She Teaches...**  
Women's Conference, September 17th  
Cost \$10; \$5.00 per child for child care.  
**CONVENANTS**  
Dr. Hedin - OT covenants  
Dr. Bullock - NT covenants  
Kim Sweet - Church covenants  
Small group tracks include a covenant look at marriage,  
childrearing, raising of teenagers, adults parenting  
their parents & grand mothering  
Snack breakfast, Lunch & CHOCOLATE included

October Painting  
with Ellen  
cost \$20.00 pp due  
upon registration  
*last day to register*  
*October 3rd*

Grace Groups

Do you or someone you know struggle with a mental health difficulty? Consider joining a grace group! Grace groups focus on the positive with each meeting hopefully ending in greater understanding and vision concerning mental health difficulties. Our Grace Group does allow time to share pressing needs and pray for one another; however, our focus each week is on learning how to filter difficulties through God's grace and implementing the many practical skills and tools presented during the meetings.

Family Grace group (for someone supporting a loved one with a mental health difficulty) meets on Monday evenings at 6:30 in the Teller room. Contact Greg or Meg Trihus ([greg.trihus@sil.org](mailto:greg.trihus@sil.org), or [meg.trihus@wycliffe.org](mailto:meg.trihus@wycliffe.org)) for more information.

Living Grace group (for someone struggling with a mental illness) meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30 in the Teller room. Contact George Fritts ([gfrittslpcintern@gmail.com](mailto:gfrittslpcintern@gmail.com)) for more info.

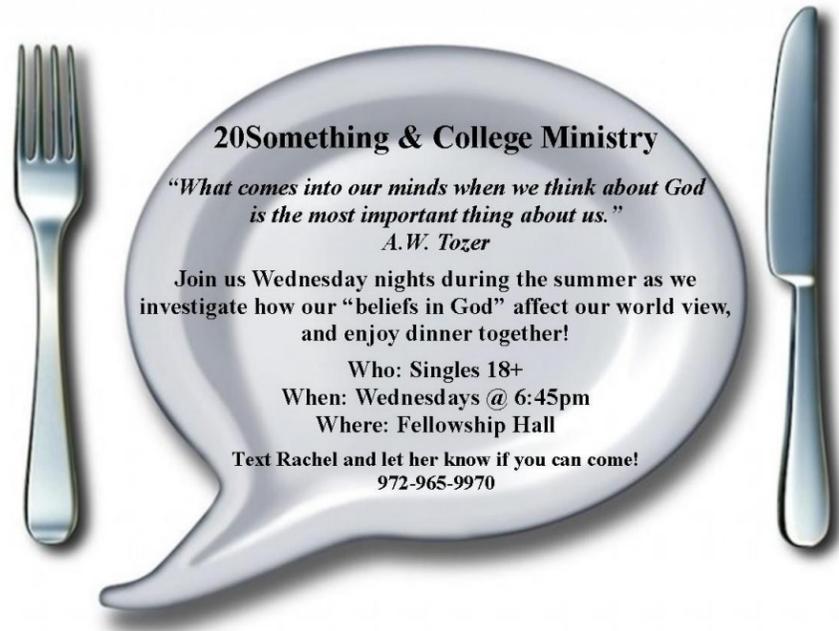
20Somethings & College Ministry



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**Mexico Mission Trip**  
**July 24th - 30th**  
**Cost - \$300**  
**see Rachel for info**



**COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY**  
**Class: Sunday Mornings, 9:45am**  
**Ed. Bldg., 2nd Flr.**  
**Teachers: Kevin & Caitlin Marek**  
**Studying: various books of the Bible**

**Activities:**

☺ July 24th - 30th: Mission trip to Mexico, cost \$250, see Rachel

**Classes:**

~ Sunday Morning 9:45 am: Daniel Sweet leading  
 ~ Sunday Night 5:30 pm  
 a study of various books of the Bible (Fellowship Hall)  
 ~ Wednesday Night 6:45pm: Dinner and Discussion



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

**Updated July 2016 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.

**July 14th:**

~ Youth "Good Burger" Luncheon, see Zach

**July 15th:**

~ Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center \*rsvp to [cyndikking@msn.com](mailto:cyndikking@msn.com)  
 ~ Youth TGIF, see Zach

**July 18th:**

~ Sports & Art Camp begins, 9:00am, Worship Center

**July 24th - 30th:**

~ Mexico Mission Trip \*leaving immediately after 8:30am service

**July 27th - August 2nd:**

~ Youth Portland Mission Trip, see Zach

**Promotion Sunday**  
**coming**  
**August 21st!**

**Discipleship**

**Regular Scheduled Activities**

**Sunday Nights:**

- ◇ 20Somethings - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Discipleship - Choir Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Conference Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Young Marrieds Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Couples Class - Library, 5:30pm
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - Common Grounds, 5:30pm, see Zach for exact location
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - Common Grounds, 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 - Common Grounds, 6:30pm
- ◇ Reading Seminar - Sanctuary, 6:45pm
- ◇ Women's Bible Study - Conference Room, 6:45pm
- ◇ 20Somethings/College Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 6:45pm

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

*Average Morning Attendance for June: 311*

*Average 7:17 Service Attendance for June: 132*

*Financials as of June 24, 2016*

<b>Budget Income</b>	<b>\$ 510,449</b>
<b>Budget Expense</b>	<b>\$ (502,207)</b>
<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>\$ 8,242</b>