

## “In the Beginning was the Word”

*“<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. <sup>5</sup>The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”* John 1:1-5 (NASB)

*“<sup>9</sup>The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They are reborn - not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. <sup>14</sup>So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. <sup>15</sup>John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’” <sup>16</sup>From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.”* John 1:9-16 (NLT)

In notable contrast to Matthew and Luke, John gives His own Christmas account. Christmas or advent gives the historic account of God becoming man in the birth of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He was announced in advance of His birth by Gabriel and announced at His birth by a host of angels to the shepherds. John was aware of the other Gospel accounts. However, seeking to record aspects of Jesus' life that were previously unrecorded, John provided a unique look at the life of Christ. John's incarnation account precedes Luke's and Matthew's by quite a bit. Both Matthew and Luke include a genealogical record of Christ. Both Matthew and Luke began their record of Christ's life with the announcement of His birth followed with details of His first days as an infant. John predates these accounts by an eternity. He goes back in time prior to Mary and Joseph. He goes back in time prior to the Old Testament prophecies concerning Messiah. He even goes back prior to the genealogical records. He goes all the way back to Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." John explained something quite profound about the creation of the universe, the Son of God was there. Not only was He there at the creation of the universe, He was the instrumental cause of everything that has come into existence. Angels may have announced His birth, but He spoke those same angels into being. Shepherds and sheep witnessed His announcement, but He created them in His own image. He is more glorious, more majestic, more splendid than our minds can comprehend. He is the very revelation of God in this world. To capture the significance of God's self-disclosure as found in His Son, Jesus Christ, John referred to Him as the Logos (Word or Message). God revealed Himself to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. When we look at Jesus we see what God is like. When we observe the life, ministry, teachings, death and resurrection, we see the nature of the God of creation. Jesus Christ is God among and with us. He is the Emmanuel.

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## The Word Became Human...We Have Seen His Glory

“In the beginning was the Word...” but why does that matter to us? It matters because the Word took on human flesh. He became a human being. However, He was different than any other human being. He was “full of unfailing love and faithfulness.” This “grace and truth” as the NASB calls it, demonstrated something fundamentally different in the Word (Logos) than found in any of us. He lived a radically different life, different than anyone ever has or ever will live. From this verse we may conclude that the only way we would ever be able to see the glory of God is through His miraculous life. “And the Word became a human...and we have seen His glory.” Apart from the incarnation, the glory of God cannot be seen or experienced. But now “we have seen His glory,” a glory that comes from His Father and is communicated to us through the incarnation of His Son. To see, know, experience and delight in the glory of God is why we are here. That is why God made us. That is why we have breath in our lungs. He made us to know Him in the fullness of His glory. Prior to human sin, humanity had access to God in all of His glory. However, human sin obliterated our avenue to Him. The holiness of God requires that we must be holy in order to be in His presence. There is no way back to the glory of God unless God does something to provide a way back. No small intervention will do in this restoration plan. Our violation of God's character, our rebellion against His sovereignty over us, is far too great. It will require something radical. It necessitates an eternal and infinite rescue. In order to restore our access to our Creator, our Creator must take our life upon Himself. He must walk among us, revealing the nature of the glory of God in His unfailing love and faithfulness. Then, in His absolute perfection, He must bear our sin as if He had rebelled and then He must overcome the finality of death by rising again from the dead. In His incarnation, death, and resurrection, the avenue back to the original intent has opened. As John says in verse 16, “From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.”

~ Daniel

**Candlelight Services**

**Saturday, December 24th**

**5:30pm**  
(with childcare for 3yrs & under)

**7:00pm**  
(no childcare)

**Christmas Morning Service**

SUNDAY MORNING, 10:30AM

WE WILL OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER IN CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH.

(no childcare available)

Children's Ministry



**AWANA HAS BEGUN!**

**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.

Would you pray about joining the Awana team this year?  
Or do you know anyone who might be a good fit  
for this ministry opportunity?

Contact Brittany at [brittanymrbc@gmail.com](mailto:brittanymrbc@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in the amazing ministry!



**Sunday Nights 5:30pm**  
**Education Building**  
**2nd floor**



For kids in kindergarten through 6th grade - Join us for games on the front lawn (weather permitting) followed by girls and boys Bible studies focused on becoming disciples who go into the world to make disciples. This fall we will finish our study on the book of Matthew.

**A Family Christmas on the Lawn**  
(This is a FREE family event!)  
Where: Matthew Road Baptist Church  
When: Wednesday, December 14th  
Time: 6:45pm - 8:15pm  
Live Nativity w/Petting Zoo, Hot Chocolate, Story Time at Grandma's, Photo Booth. Write a letter to someone in the military or to a child in the hospital \*Free gift for every child that completes their passport!

**Sunday School**

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



Music Ministry



The music ministry of MRBC invites you to join us for a special time of worship as we prepare our hearts for the Advent season. JOY! is a special musical presentation that looks to the Biblical prophecies of a coming Messiah and their ultimate fulfillment in Christ.

We hope you'll join us for our morning worship services on Sunday, December 4th, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

*"Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation.  
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.  
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious mystery!  
Once a Babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history."*

College Ministry



Guys, Tuesday Nights, 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
@ MRBC, CommonGrounds, lead by Zach Van Veldhuizen  
Ladies, Tuesday Nights, 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
@ 2514 Channing Drive, GP TX 75052, led by Caroline Van Veldhuizen

Guys, Saturday Mornings, 9:00am - 11:00am  
@ MRBC, CommonGrounds led by Kevin Marek  
Ladies, Saturday Mornings, 9:00am - 11:00am  
@ 1310 N. Cockrell Hill Rd #1028, Dallas TX, 75211, led by Caitlin Marek

Also Sundays, 9:45am & 5:30pm @ MRBC, see Welcome Desk for info

**MATTHEW ROAD COLLEGE MINISTRY**  
THURSDAY NIGHT HANG OUT - @ 6:30 PM - 2514 CHANNING DR. 75052  
SUNDAY SCHOOL - @ 5:30 PM - MATTHEW ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH  
SUNDAY SERVICE - @ 6:45 PM - MATTHEW ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH  
DINNER AFTER SERVICE - TBD

QUESTIONS? TEXT ZACH (214)818-1002

Missions

the gospel resounds  
LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING  
\$12,500  
100% of your gift helps send and sustain IMB missionaries.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS: DECEMBER 4-11**

The Week of Prayer for International Missions will be December 4-11. Prayer Guides will be available on December 4 following each worship service to encourage you to pray for several missionaries during the Week of Prayer.

We will also be collecting for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering throughout the month. Our church goal is \$12,500. Envelopes will be in the chair-backs in the worship center.

Please pray for God to guide you as to how He wants you to participate.

## Women's Ministry

### She Teaches

Women's Ministry on MRBC's campus uses Psalm 1 as a guide. A Psalm 1 woman is rooted in the Word of God, allowing the Word to be a stream of truth that will bear fruit in her life. As she goes, she will teach that the Lord is good... to her family, her friends, and everyone she encounters.



### 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
- Wednesday Nights**  
Cyndi King - the book of Luke
- Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A (Camp Wisdom Location)**  
Cyndi King - 9:00 am  
The book of Luke

**Women's Ministry Night of Praise**  
March 3rd, 7:00pm  
Common Grounds

**FIRST MONDAY TRADE DAYS**

**ORIGINAL MONDAY TRADE DAYS**

APRIL 29, 2017  
8:30 AM  
MEET AT CHURCH  
QUESTIONS? SEE RACHEL

**ALL-CHURCH FAMILY CAMPOUT**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
APRIL 7TH & 8TH

COME JOIN US AS WE ENJOY GREAT FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER UNDER THE STARS

MORE INFO TO COME!

**RIVERBEND WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**FEBRUARY 10TH**

**COST: \$60**

**MORE INFO TO COME**

## Youth Ministry

### Small Group Bible Studies have begun!

- High School Girls - 6:30pm-7:30pm on Thursdays**  
Shannon Prater- (214-536-8751), Greg Prater- (214-536-9051)  
Address - 4405 Browning Ln Grand Prairie, TX 75052  
Leader: Christine Wehrli - (682) 551-9831
- High School Guys - Geisendorffs - 6:30pm-8:00pm on Mondays**  
Ed Geisendorff - (469-236-6052), Angela Geisendorff - (972-602-3866)  
Address - 4646 Betts Dr. Grand Prairie, TX  
Nick Breedlove (Student Helper) (214-605-3629)  
Garrett Halsell (Student Helper) - (972-824-3929)
- High School Guys - Kings - 6:30pm-8:00pm on Mondays**  
Doug King - (214-557-5437), Cyndi King - (214-762-9437)  
Address - 4106 Devon Ct. Grand Prairie, TX  
Daniel King (Student Helper) - (214-304-0190)
- Middle School Girls - 7:00-8:00pm on Tuesdays**  
Glen McGregor - (318-469-7132), Kim McGregor - (318-469-2186)  
Address - 2820 Plume Ct. Cedar Hill, TX  
Leader: Chelsea Galbraith- (214-729-8278)  
Annabelle McClellin (Student Helper) - (469-503-8449)
- Middle School Guys - 6:30pm - 8:00pm on Mondays**  
Eli Moreno (817-727-9576), Ana Moreno (817-727-9517)  
Address - 2235 Tawny Owl Rd Grand Prairie, TX  
Leader: Dante James (Intern) - (972) 834-0336

**December 16th -**  
Youth Christmas Party @ the Stovers  
White Elephant gift, under \$5  
Tacky Sweater Contest  
Food  
Hangout

**December 21st -**  
Youth Game Night, 6:30pm - 8:00pm  
Bring your video games and/or board games!

**December 28th -**  
Youth Serve Day, 9:00am - 5:00pm  
(Dante will be in charge of this activity, Zach will be out of town)

**February 17th - 19th -**  
Heartbeat  
Cost:  
\$50 bring a friend rate  
or  
\$50 if signed up by Feb. 2nd  
or  
\$70 if signed up after Feb. 2nd

## MRA Christmas Program

**You're Invited**

**Matthew Road Academy's Holiday Show**

Featuring our Drama and Ballet Classes!

When: December 12th 2016 @ 6:30 PM  
Where: 4601 Matthew Road  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052  
Why: To see an amazing show the students have worked hard on all year long!

Free Admission

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

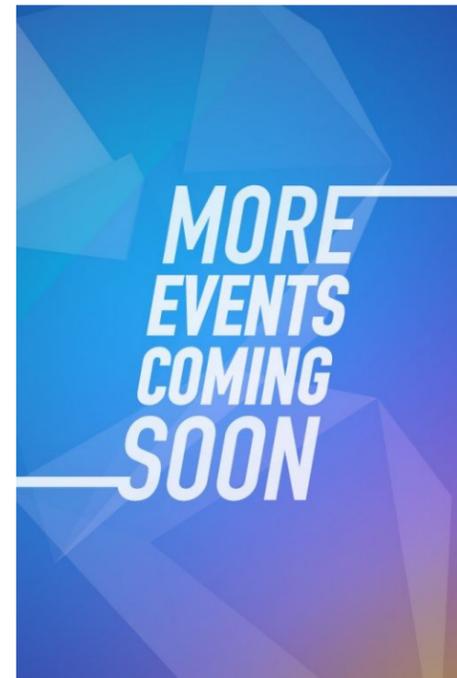
Isaiah 9:6 NIV

20Somethings



**Classes:**  
 ~ Sunday Morning 9:45 am: Jeff Morris leading  
 ~ Wednesday Night 6:30pm: Food and Discussion

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



*Tax Information*

Please note: The last Sunday to turn in offering for the 2016 tax year is Sunday, December 25th.

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](mailto:crystal@matthewroad.org).

\*if you are not able to drop your giving in the plate by Sunday, December 25th, please have it postmarked by December 31st. This will be credited to the 2016 year. If your giving is postmarked after December 31st, it will credit to the 2017 year.



Updated December 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.

- December 1st:** Young@Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- December 4th:** NewComers Class & Lunch, 12:15pm
- December 11th:** Deacon Meeting, 4:00pm, Conference Room
- December 14th:** Family Christmas on the Lawn, 6:45pm (for families with children 6th grade & under)  
We will still have Adult Bible Study and Collide for youth
- December 16th:** Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center  
\*must rsvp to [cyndikking@msn.com](mailto:cyndikking@msn.com)  
Youth Christmas Party at the Stovers, see Zach
- December 18th:** Christmas Musical, Morning Services
- December 21st:** Adult Bible Study, Collide for Youth & a Children's' Gathering, 6:30pm - 7:30pm
- December 24th:** Christmas Eve Services  
5:30pm, with childcare 3 yrs and under  
7:00pm, no childcare
- December 25th:** Christmas Day Service, 10:30am (no Sunday School/Bible Studies), no childcare  
No Evening Service/Activities
- December 26th - January 2nd:** Church Office Closed, will reopen Tuesday, January 3rd

**Discipleship**

*Regular Scheduled Activities*

**Sunday Nights:**

- ◇ College - 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:**

- ◇ Awana Club for children - Ed. Building, 6:30pm
- ◇ Collide for youth - Common Grounds, 6:30pm
- ◇ 20Somethings/College Bible Study - Fellowship Hall, 6:30pm
- ◇ Adult Bible Study - Library, 6:45pm
- ◇ Women's Bible Study - Conference Room, 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	6:47pm
<b>Mondays</b>	
K2 Primary Academy (during the school year)	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
<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)	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Adult Choir (during the school year)	6:30pm
Wacky Wednesdays (children)	6:30pm
20Somethings/College	6:30pm
Adult Bible Studies	6:45pm
<b>Thursdays</b>	
MRA (during school year)	8:30am
<b>Fridays</b>	
Chick time at Chick-Fil-A (Camp Wisdom)	9:00am
<b>Saturdays</b>	
Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30am

Average Morning Attendance for November: 363

Average 7:17 Service Attendance for November: 189

**Financials as of November 11, 2016**  
 (Does not include schools)

Budget Income	\$ 942,621
Budget Expense	\$ (922,602)
Net Budget	\$ 20,018