



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 2024

From the Pastor's Desk



“Gifts that Last” – Stewardship 2025

Brothers and Sisters,

When stewardship season rolled around last year I told you of my time working with a church that focused on money every single Sunday and how it sometimes felt like the pastor cared more about the congregation’s wallets than their souls. I’ve always been cautious about discussing giving and stewardship because I never want anyone to feel

that the church values them only for their financial contributions. You are valued and loved and as long as I’m pastor at St. Matthew- we will never judge you by what you give or don’t give.

However, as a church, we are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and to do so, we must wisely steward our resources.

This year’s stewardship campaign will focus on the concept of giving “Gifts That Last.” We’ll explore how our giving impacts our mission, strengthens our community, and draws us closer to God.

Key Dates to Remember:

Campaign Duration: September 8th - September 22nd

The stewardship campaign kicks off on September 8th and will run through September 22nd. During this time, we invite every member of our congregation to prayerfully consider their role in supporting our church's mission, whether through financial contributions, time, or talents. Each Sunday, we will delve into different aspects of faithful stewardship—how our giving impacts our mission and how we can respond to God’s call to be good stewards.

Stewardship Letters and Pledge Cards:

In early September, you’ll receive stewardship letters and pledge cards in your mailbox. These materials will offer more details about the campaign and help guide your decision-making process. We encourage you to prayerfully consider your commitment to our church's mission.

Continued on next page.

Worship Online 11am:

www.facebook.com/StMatthewMWC or www.stmatthew.org/sermons

Give Online:

www.stmatthew.org/giving

From the Pastor's Desk Cont.

September 8th: Church-wide Finance Meeting

Mark your calendars for a special finance meeting on September 8th during the Sunday School hour. This gathering will give us a transparent view of our church's financial health, along with an opportunity to explore how our resources support our mission. This meeting will set the tone for our campaign, providing clarity on where we stand and where we are headed.

September 15th: Estate Planning Session

On September 15th, we will host an Estate Planning Session led by the Oklahoma Methodist Foundation during the Sunday School hour. This session is designed to help you think long-term about your own financial situation and how your estate can reflect your values and commitment to God's work. It's an opportunity to explore how we can make lasting contributions that go beyond our lifetimes.

September 22nd: Commitment Sunday

Our campaign will culminate on September 22nd with "Commitment Sunday." On this special day, we invite you to bring your pledge cards as a sign of your commitment to our church's mission and future. It's a day to unite in purpose, consecrating our resources for God's work within our community and beyond.

We understand that everyone's circumstances are unique, and no pledge is too small. What matters most is your heart and willingness to participate in our shared journey. As we move forward, we strive to embody the type of community Paul talks about in Galatians 6:2, where we "carry each other's burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ."

We are excited to journey together in this season of stewardship, exploring what it means to be faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Your participation is vital in shaping the future of St. Matthew United Methodist Church and spreading the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

May God bless you abundantly as we embark on this faithful journey!

God's peace and much love,

Jonathon



Words About Worship
From the Director of
Music Ministries



Happy September! Welcome back to St. Matthew! School has been going for a few weeks now, vacations are over for the most part, and it's time to turn over that new leaf. It's time — time to join a Sunday School class, join or begin a small group, time to reestablish a pattern of worship attendance, time to return to, or join, one of the many St. Matthew organizations; UWF, Men's Group, Emmaus, Choir, WOW, Youth Group, Young Adults...It's time!!

The Finance Committee has designated September as our annual Stewardship Campaign beginning September 8. Jonathon will take a break from the Lectionary for these 3 Sundays. September 8 is Why We Give? September 15 is What We Give? And September 22 is To Whom Do We Give? and Consecration Sunday, Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter. The Lectionary reading for September 1 is James 1:17-27. The reading for September 29 is Mark 9:38-50. The Spirit Singers will sing ***I Surrender All*** for the 11am service September 8.

Worship Project returns Thursday, September 26th, 7pm in Wesley Hall. If you enjoy a casual contemporary worship service, this service is for you! Come check it out!

The Chancel Choir and Spirit Singers have begun working on our annual Christmas cantata. If you've wondered about joining the choir, this is a great time! For questions, email me, gtatum@stmatthew.org, or call me 405-732-6831, 405-820-7262.

Kaye Rhoades has been a wonderful Communion Steward for many years. This is a one Sunday per month responsibility and consists of picking up a loaf of Kings Hawaiian bread and bottle of Welch's grape juice (reimbursable), putting the plastic cups in the trays and filling them with juice, and placing the elements on the Communion table for the 11am service. After the service, there are always people to help collect the used cups, empty remaining cups, and kids to eat the bread. There are written instructions available. Please give this position prayerful consideration. It is not difficult, but it is essential!

Fall at St. Matthew means Pumpkins! Last Sunday we had the opportunity to hear what our pumpkin grants have meant to our community. Our Pumpkins with a Purpose have an impact far beyond our church walls. This year's patch opens around September 30th, or when the pumpkins actually arrive. The Pumpkins are scheduled for delivery September 29th. The sign up board to work shifts in the patch is now available. It won't be long now!!

See you Sunday! Please make it a point to be in worship. You are important, and your presence is vital!

Email gtatum@stmatthew.org
for questions about music ministry.

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum



LIBRARY NEWS



September 2024

from Terri



Fall is almost here, which means it's time to curl up on the sofa with a pumpkin spice latte, a cozy afghan, and a new suspense book (if the weather won't cooperate turn the air down).

Target Acquired, book two in Lynette Eason's *Lake City Heroes Series*, is a grab the edge of your seat novel. Book one, *Double Take*, was a hit in book club and reviewers say *Target Acquired* is even better.

Don't Close Your Eyes by Mary Alford is book one in the *Hallowed Halls Series*. I found the book riveting, but full disclosure – it's not for the faint of heart. If you like scary (Susie Larsen) then this book is for you.

Dana Mentink gifted me with a copy of *Trapped in Yosemite*. You'll be so glad she did. After a massive earthquake in Yosemite, a small group is trapped in the national park. For Stella Rivers the disaster becomes a nightmare when she realizes a killer has her in his sight.

Jaime Jo Wright's book *Night Falls on Predicament Avenue* is one of her most suspenseful novels to date according to Cynthia Weldon. Effie James is committed to doing anything to protect her younger sister who witnessed a shocking murder.

Stop by and check out one of these great new suspense books today!



2024 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Valarie Autry	Eric Autry
Patty Avery	Donna Bassham
Jamie Clinesmith	Jackie Elk
Rebecca Hartmann	Dayna Heath
Katelynn Henderson	Lacey Holland
Larry Kisner	Chirlee Lang
Susie Larsen	Karen Marichal
Joyce Perkins	Ashley Poole
Carolejean Reynolds	Kaye Rhoades
Kalyn Roark	Emily Robinson
Kay Ross	Stacey Ruston
Jayna Sims	Carolyn Specht
Barbara Wallace	Cynthia Weldon
Terri Weldon	

They're reading the greatest story ever told!

MERCI! THANK YOU! GRACIAS!

Special thanks to Debi Alleman for donating *Double Take*, book one of Lynette Eason's *Lake City Heroes Series*. Thanks for helping to S-T-R-E-T-C-H our library budget!

NEW COLLEEN COBLE BOOK

Colleen Coble has teamed up with Rick Acker to pen the *Tupelo Grove Series*. *What We Hide* is a legal thriller involving a woman accused of murder who turns to the best defense attorney she knows – her estranged husband. To discover what is going on they will need to put their past behind them. Try it out today!

BRUNSTETTER IS BACK!

Wanda Brunstetter is back with *The Protector*, book one in her new series – *Mifflin County Mysteries*. Norman Petersheim's sister is missing. He's determined to find her. Will his obsessions with Rosa's whereabouts destroy his relationship with Salina Swarey.

NEW ROMANCE BOOK

I recently won a copy of *Memory Lane* by Becky Wade and am donating it to the library. Becky is a leading voice in Christian romance. If you've never read one of her books give this one a try!

ST. MATT KIDS

SEPTEMBER NEWS

“Parents, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4)

Now that cooler weather is here, you'll find us on the playground a lot! Sometimes it feels like once fall hits its full speed until the end of the year! As you are getting back in the swing of things and filling out your calendar, are you prioritizing the things that truly matter? It's SOOOO important for children to have a routine and making church part of that routine has been proven to carry over into their adult lives!

WOW has started back focusing on some of the people in the Old Testament with the Holy Moly curriculum. We've had several "lightbulb moments" which have been so fun to watch! Sunday School has kicked off and will be following the lectionary with Jonathan's sermons. Always be in prayer for our awesome St. Matt Kids!

AT ST. MATTHEW, OUR MISSION IS TO SHOWER GOD'S LOVE UPON OUR CHILDREN

**SO THAT THEY WILL KNOW:
GOD LOVES THEM... UNCONDITIONALLY.
CHURCH IS A WONDERFUL, SAFE PLACE TO BE.
STORIES OF JESUS.**

WILL YOU ANSWER THE LORD'S CALL AND BE A PART OF THIS MINISTRY?
CHRIST HAS NO HANDS BUT YOURS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 28- Pumpkin Unloading

OCTOBER

Oct. 12-Pumpkin Festival
Oct. 27-Trunk or Treat

WANT TO HELP OUR KIDS?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR
MORE CHILDREN'S
CHURCH TEACHERS!
VOLUNTEER FOR 1
SUNDAY EVERY OTHER
MONTH!

Contact Information:
Katelynn Henderson
405.740.4379
children@stmatthew.org

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

Sunday School @ 9:40am
Children's Church during 11am Service
*No Children's Church 1st
Sunday of the Month

WEDNESDAYS

WOW @ 6:30pm

Alpha Omega News

Sunday School 9:40AM | Sunday Youth 5-7PM | Wednesday Youth 6:30-7:30PM

The purpose of Alpha Omega Student Ministries is to stand on the foundation, with a heart to worship, a mind to reach out, and hands to serve and love.

Want to Volunteer?

We have many opportunities to hang out with our youth and help shape the future leaders of our church! If you are interested in volunteering in the following areas, please let Kalyn know!

- Mystery Trips, Lock-ins, and other special events
- Wednesday Night Activities
- Sunday Night Activities
- Mission Trips and Volunteer/Service Activities

Books of the Bible Incentive Program

Each month, the youth will have the opportunity to win some prizes!

On the first Sunday of every month, if they are able to come list the Books of the Bibles to Kalyn, they get some prizes!

Naming all the books of the New Testament OR the Old Testament: A coffee or soda from any place of the youth's choosing

Naming ALL of the books of the Bible: \$5 gift card to anywhere you choose.

There are no limitations, and you can do each month, or you can skip a month here or there, there are no penalties.

However, there are a couple of rules. Obviously, don't cheat. No writing them down and glancing at them or anything of the sort. Secondly, have fun and learn your books! That's the whole goal of this!

If everyone learns all the books of the Bible, we will take a trip to Pops!

Craft Night

Sunday, September 22nd, we will be having a craft night!

Plan to work on multiple crafts throughout the evening! Bring your creativeness and some friends!

We highly recommend clothes you don't mind getting dirty, just in case!



Joint Youth Night

Sunday, September 8th, we will be having joint youth with Sunnyslane UMC!

Plan to meet AT Sunnyslane at 5pm on September 8th. Parents can pick up at 7pm AT Sunnyslane UMC.

Let Kalyn know if you have any questions!

Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 1st: No Youth
- Sept. 11th: Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- Sept. 22nd: Craft Night

September at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

Sept. 2		Labor Day—Church Office is closed
Sept. 3	6pm	Trustees
Sept. 5		TEFAP
Sept. 8	Noon	Grandparents Day Ice Cream Social
Sept. 15		Blood Drive
Sept. 26	7pm	The Worship Project
Sept. 29		Pumpkins Arrive



Week at a glance

For a more complete list of events and activities visit stmatthew.org/calendar

<u>Sunday</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>	
8:30am	Worship	5:30pm	MidWeek Meal
9:40am	Sunday School	6:15pm	Spirit Singers
11am	Worship (w/ LiveStream)	6:30pm	MidWeek Programs
5pm	AO Youth Group	7:15pm	Choir
<u>Monday</u>		<u>Thursday</u>	
1pm	Mobile Meals Prep	10am	Mobile Meals
<u>Tuesday</u>		1pm	Moving for Balance
7am	Mobile Meals	6pm	OK Scottish Pipes & Drums
10am	Quilters Sew&Go	<u>Friday</u>	
1pm	Moving For Balance	7am	Mobile Meals Prep
6:15pm	Toastmasters Meeting	<u>Saturday</u>	
7pm	Okie Dokie Banjo Band	9:30am	Girl Scouts

Sept. 1	Chad Shelton
Sept. 3	Larry Kisner Kim Moody Carolejean Reynolds
Sept. 4	Dot Lambert
Sept. 6	Anita Endsley
Sept. 7	Joan Tiernan
Sept. 8	Necia Miller
Sept. 9	Eugenia Davis
Sept. 10	Jim Lang Deanna McIntire
Sept. 12	Ryder Fitzpatrick
Sept. 13	Chirlee Lang
Sept. 14	Debi Alleman
Sept. 15	Morgan Baker Caroline Henderson
Sept. 17	David Keenum
Sept. 19	Ruth Wilson
Sept. 21	Cam Allen Finn Maxfield
Sept. 23	Hannalicia Robinson Cynthia Weldon
Sept. 24	Jim Wilbur

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH AT NOON

GRANDPARENTS ARE SWEET!

Our church family is full of so many Grandparents and we want to celebrate you! Feel free to invite your own grandkids or grandparents! Don't have any? WE ARE A FAMILY, so please join us!



Sept. 1	Matt & Diane Mathis
Sept. 3	Walter & Joan Tiernan
Sept. 4	Keith & Anita Endsley
Sept. 23	Jim & Chirlee Lang
Sept. 25	David & Jackie Elk



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A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*The Mission of The United Methodist Church
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

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