



The Monitor

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

August 25, 2010

stmattschurch.org



Pastor's
Message

RAISE THE ROOF A SUCCESS

First, I write to express my thanks to the *Raise the Roof Capital Funds Campaign Committee*. They worked with a short amount of time. They planned to use a low impact approach, yet tell people in plain terms the need for a new roof over the kitchen and building used primarily by our Day School Ministry. People heard the need. They helped spread the word. People responded with their pledges. Our need of \$80,000 was underwritten. Our Building Committee has secured a roofing contractor and a HVAC Company and the project to "Raise the Roof" will be in full swing by midweek, August 26, 2010.

Thanks to everyone who helped get this roofing project completed and underwritten. when our church works together, truly amazing things happen.

Total # of pledges as of 8/23/10 57 Units
Total \$ pledged as of 8/23/10 \$87,077.32
Cash on hand as of 8/23/10 \$32,276.00

Peace!

Our Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church is
to make disciples of Jesus Christ:
through *worship* in diverse styles,
Christian *instruction* for a variety of age groups and
interaction with those in need in our neighborhood and world.

Making Disciples: wii

Worship Services
Sunday Worship—8:30, 9:45 & 11:10am
Sunday School—9:45am
Wednesday Communion
Service—6:30 pm

Church Office
Mon.—Thurs.. 8:00am to 4:30pm

Phone: (210) 822-0252

Fax: (210) 828-2195

Church Email Address
stmatthews@prodigy.net

St. Matthew's Website
www.stmattschurch.org

A COMMENT FROM THE SPRC

In consultation with our pastor and in keeping with the teachings of Jesus as stated in the gospel of Matthew 18:15 that follows, the Staff Parish Relations Committee has adopted the following process for addressing issues involving the professional staff at St. Matthew's UMC.

Any individual or group should first meet privately with the staff person to discuss the specific issue and offer their recommendations. If the issue cannot be resolved by these individuals, then the person or persons raising the issue should refer the issue to the SPRC either in writing or in person.

We believe that this process is in keeping with Matthew 18:15 which reads as follows:

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Your SPRC consists of the following members:

Robert Freund, Chairman
Ruben Cevallos, Vice Chairman
Marianne Dorsett, Secretary
Bev Broom
Jo Reinschmidt
Lauren Lewis
Gene Hileman
Sue Barrett
Steve Curry
Bill Twyford, Lay Leader
Les Barrow, Chairman, Administrative Council

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
St. Matthew's Fall Festival
Saturday, October 9
11 AM – 3 PM

APPORTIONMENTS: HOW WE WORK TOGETHER

Every United Methodist church works with all others in the denomination to do what no church could accomplish alone. The results include the following outreach missions and many not listed.

We pay administrative expenses for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This emergency response mission goes immediately to help people when natural disasters occur.

Campus Ministries provide a United Methodist Christian presence on campuses for college students in our Annual Conference.

Pensions for retired clergy and clergy spouses are paid when we pay our apportionment askings.

African University, Ethnic Ministries, Interdenomination Cooperation are all paid through payments to apportionments.

World Service and Conference Benevolence apportioned funds help battle malaria, recruit and train clergy to start new churches and help us meet our most important challenge, poverty around the world.

This year our apportionment askings total \$54,533. At the end of July we have paid \$18,350 or 34%. We need just over \$36,000 to pay all apportionments askings.

BLUE BELL CREAMERIES



The XYZ Group is hosting a bus trip to Brenham to tour the Blue Bell Creameries. After the long, hot, summer, we need to have some fun - you know - Xtra Years of Zest. We have reserved the very nice Windcrest Methodist Church bus for Wednesday, September 8th, and will leave our church parking lot at *7:30 am.

Ice Cream Day Trip We will tour the creamery and have lunch in the historic district of Brenham. This invitation is open to the church. The cost of the Blue Bell tour is \$3.00 for seniors and \$5.00 for younger than seniors. Each person will pay for his or her lunch. We will not know the exact cost of the bus ahead of time. The driver will let us know when we return. The cost will be divided among all - so let's fill the bus. Members of the XYZ Group are already on the list. Please call Bob and Jean Goulas to put your name on the list. Their number is 496-1690.

*Please note that this is a change of time from the first announcement. Bus will leave at 7:30 am.

The Agape Ministry
Covering the emergency needs of our community!

July 14, 2010

Dear Church Family,

The month of June was one of the busiest months on record at Agape - 865 clients in 22 days with 1,656 family members. Families from across the northeast side of San Antonio, Schertz and Cibolo are in emergency situations from loss of job, downsizing in jobs, health issues, or reduction in work hours just to name a few. Assisting families is what Agape strives to do.

One way your church can assist families is through having a food drive. Picking up one or two canned items, a jar of jelly, toilet tissue or any other item and donating those to Agape saves money spent at the San Antonio Food Bank each week. (Yes, Agape must purchase food items from the Food Bank.)

What about a special project for your church family? Many church families will be purchasing school items during this month. Are you willing to give up one meal out with your family and donate that money to help purchase school shoes? This is the fourth year Agape is assisting families by purchasing new tennis shoes for school-age children. Families have already begun applying for shoes for their children. Staff and volunteers at Agape know the money will be available to benefit children in need.

Finally, volunteers are a need in all areas at Agape and The Fig Leaf (resale shop). What better way to serve than by joining others who serve families in need.

Your friend in Christ,

Nancy Stephens
Executive Director

AGAPE MINISTRY

Agape was founded as an agency to provide food and clothing to families in need. Agape will continue to do so with your help and the help of other churches who support Agape.

FOOD NEEDS: laundry detergent, bar soap, peanut butter, jelly, breakfast cereal, mixed vegetables, spaghetti/spaghetti sauce, canned peas, potatoes or sweet potatoes, canned meat, canned fruit, canned corn, toilet paper, diapers-sizes 3,4, or 5, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

STATE EMPLOYEE COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN FUND: If you are a state employee and wish to direct your United Way donation to Agape, the campaign number is 414030-The Agape Ministry, Inc. State employees include bus drivers, cafeteria workers and personnel working in a school district.

THANKS to our Youth Group for their volunteer work at Agape this summer.

ST. MATTHEW'S UMC
SUMMER CHILDREN'S FOOD PROGRAM

Friday August 20th marked the end of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church first time participating in the San Antonio Food Bank's Summer Children's Lunch Program. Volunteers from the church staffed the program for all 54 days of the program. We were open for lunch every day, regardless of weather, for any child that showed up for lunch. During the summer, we served a total of 544 lunches to children that may have otherwise gone hungry.

Logistical problems at the Food Bank did cause a couple bumps in the road along the way. Unfortunately, one of those bumps occurred on the second day of VBS when we received no lunches from the Food Bank and were unable to feed over fifty children. Later that week, though, we were able to serve lunch to sixty-four children including thirteen children from another church's VBS program.

This program would not have been successful without the enthusiastic support of the staff, the congregation, and all the volunteers. Over sixty members of the congregation provided hundreds of volunteer hours during the summer. Many people came regularly every week. Some came twice a week or more. The youth of our church passed out fliers twice throughout the local apartments and neighborhoods to help get the word out. Two members of the Church's Boy Scout Troop, Miles Wilson and Richard Martinez, also participated in the lunch program earning community service hours towards their Boy Scout advancement requirements.

We can all be very proud of the manner in which St. Matthew's stepped up to meet the need to feed so many children in our community. I know that I am. I will always cherish this time of service. My profound thanks goes to each and every person who assisted in this endeavor. I'm sure that God has blessed you all.

Mike Collins

LAY SPEAKER'S CORNER

I recently had a chance to preach on a Sunday. The subject was a tough one – God's wrath and making the right choice. We, as New Testament people, frequently forget our connections to the Old Testament – the Testament that often speaks of God's wrath. God's Old Testament wrath is definitely something horrific and should be mightily feared. On the other hand, the New Testament tells us that God gave us the option to be saved through His Son. So, when New Testament people speak of fearing God, it is a very different kind of fear. As members of the faithful, I can't imagine us committing a sin so grave that we incur Old Testament wrath. Anything that bad would certainly bump us from the ranks of the faithful. Rather, we are more likely to stumble now and then and temporarily fall away from the straight and narrow. Our fear is more a fear of disappointing God than incurring His wrath. It is more a fear of intense shame than of pure terror. Now take that next step. Imagine how your life would be if the fear of disappointing God was your greatest fear. Suddenly everything else seems less important. That bad driver, that mean boss, that financial worry, that political issue – all fall into the background of a life focused on pleasing God. When the faithful are afraid of disappointing God, it changes the way you respond to life. It frees us from the bonds of worldly snares and makes room for us to revel in the pure joy of God's love. So be fearful – fearful of disappointing our loving God and His Son, our Savior – and enjoy the freedom that can be found in God's love.

Susan Collins
Lay Speaker



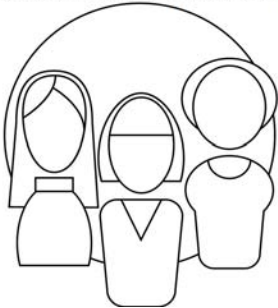
**ADOPT A
PROJECT**

We have two requests for our “Adopt a Project”:

1. Clean and paint the Youth Room. The Youth will do this as a project.
2. Clean the gym doors.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Mary Holmes at 826-7580.

United Methodist Women



The UMW will be collecting monetary donations for diapers and socks for the Children's Shelter. Donations will be collected through September 12th. Mark your check memo line with "Children's Shelter". Donations can be made through the church or may be given to Jo Reinschmidt.

***September 2 5:30 pm UMW Board Meeting - FH
6:00 pm Program, SAMM Shelter - FH
6:30 pm Covered Dish & Business Meeting - FH***

PRAYER CONCERNS

As a caring community, please pray for, visit, write or telephone one or more of those listed below.

Members of St. Matt's who continue to need prayer for healing:

Tara Cooper Jeff Coffey Bill Hart
Charles Howell Ethel Chaplin Jerry Harvey
Lila Wilson Bill Jacobs Carol Keim
Scott Hornaday Jean Abel Bob Kelley
Pat Ulrich Pat Ozment Barbara Greenough
Maurine Wells

Members, family and friends in the active military:

Trey Willette, Ginger Klaerner's brother (in Afghanistan)
Chris Willette, Ginger Klaerner's nephew (Lackland)
Nick Willette, Ginger Klaerner's nephew (in Okinawa)
Chame Palomo, Ginger Klaerner's brother-in-law (in Iraq)
Tom Humphries, Jim & Marsha Humphries' son
Rico Tamez, son of Abel & Annelie Tamez
Patrick Rios, son of Bev & Ricky Rios (Camp LeJeune, NC)
Kirk Hebert, nephew of Jeanne & Richard Adams, (Air Force, Iraq))
Andy Miscisin, son-in-law of Jack & Lucy Hoover (Air Force)
Michael Henly, grandson of Pat & Larry Ulrich (Iraq)
Jarrett Sonnen, grandson of Helen Olson (Afghanistan)

Family of our members who need our prayers:

Jim Morgan, (Marjorie Herring's brother-in-law)
Ellen Cooper (Theresa Booth's aunt), lupus
Meagan Wall, (Jerry Harvey's granddaughter), neurological problems
Ret. Admiral Thomas Evans, (brother-in-law of Bob Brown)
Lydia Miller, (mother of Burnie Miller), Regent Care
Joan Shaw, (Susan Shaw-Meadow's mother)
Richard Mock, (Norma Evans' brother)
Dixie Grenall, (Jackie Ledford's aunt)
Esperansa Saldivar, (Steve Swaney's mother-in-law), cancer
Bob Keim, (Walter Keim's brother)
Anne Walsh, (sister of Washington's son-in-law)
Mary Helton (sister of Pat Ulrich)
Michael Henley (grandson of Pat and Larry Ulrich)

Friends of our members who need our prayers:

Odette Garcia, (Annelie Tamez's friend), cancer
Josephine Bain and family, (friend of Lisa Strand), Alzheimer's
Mason, (friend of Jeanne Adams) ROHHAD
Cruz Herrera, (co-worker of Annelie Tamez)
Billie Juhl, (friend of Joe and Susanne Garvin)
Elizabeth Ann Dunlap, (friend of Debbie Cashion)
Laurie (daughter of friend of Jeanne Adams)

Members in Nursing and Health Care Facilities:

Priscilla Grammer, IHS
Mary Howard, Regent Care , Oakwell Farms
Elizabeth Rutherford, Patriot Heights Retirement
Joe & Patty Cross, Waterford @ Thousand Oaks
Marjorie Herring, Los Patios
Ethel Chaplin, Los Patios
Doris Mayfield, Regent Care



Children's Ministry Connection

Ministry for, with and by our children and their families.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the many kindnesses extended to me these past few weeks as I've taken leave of my work at St. Matthew's. The reception on the 8th of August was lovely – full of the warmth and sincerity that I've come to know as the signature of this congregation. My dining room table is covered with your cards.

Working among you in ministry to children and in the ministry of education these past few years has been a great blessing for me and a real honor. Muchas gracias! I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Love, Susan

Summer Read – In September!



Readers' Forum at St. Matthew's will resume on Monday, September 13 with *The Blue Sweater* by Jacqueline Novogratz. This is the inspiring story of a woman who has spent her life on a quest to understand global poverty and to find powerful new ways of tackling it. In a collection of stories that are as warm and appealing as they are disturbing and powerful, Novogratz shows how traditional charity often fails, but how a new form of philanthropic investing called "patient capital" can help make people self-sufficient and change millions of lives.

Look for copies of *The Blue Sweater* in Fellowship Hall soon.

Happy reading – see you in September!



Youth Yack YOUTH YACK

At last, summer has come to an end. We have had a busy summer with 2 camps, 2 mission trips, 2 mini mission weekends, a concert or two, a beach trip and we've even added a fresh coat of paint to the youth room.

Now with back to school, we will be taking it easy in September. We will start to get back to our regular schedule with Sunday morning services then youth time on Sunday nights from 5-7. Bible Studies for Jr. and Sr. high will be on Wednesdays from 5-6. We will be kicking it in October and keeping it busy all through December.

Before you know it, things will be going into high gear by the time the first of the year comes around. We already have 5 planned camps, 3 mission trips, a few concerts and some mini mission weekends. If you are interested in helping be a sponsor or chaperone for an event please let me know.

Your Brother in Christ,
Tim Diemert
210-822-0252 x101
940-594-8633
Timd5@prodigy.net

THE SEMINARIAN



Set it to Music

How do you teach a young child the alphabet? You start singing the *ABC Song*. We all know this simple little song and it is probably how we all learned the alphabet. The lyrics have a copyright date of 1835 and the tune is attributed to Mozart. But even Mozart did not claim that the tune was originally his. The tune is a traditional French melody *Ah vous dirai-je, Maman* (Ah, I Tell You, Mom). Variation of this tune is not only used for the *ABC Song* but also for *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* and *Baa, Baa, Black Sheep*.

We often think of tunes and lyrics as going together but this notion did not seem to be common before Edison invented the phonograph. With the exception of opera, tunes were pretty much seen as independent of the lyrics. Tunes were given names and either matched with existing poems or individuals would write lyrics to fit a tune they particularly liked.

We see this in the *United Methodist Hymnal*. The hymns are named by the name of the lyrics but, at the lower right of each song is the name of the tune. Hymn #123 (*El Shaddai*) was written in 1981 by Michael Card and John Thompson. The tune and the lyrics were written to go together and bear the same name. However, for Hymn #580 (*Lead On, O King Eternal*), the lyrics were written over half a century after the tune. Not only that, but the same tune (*Lancashire*) is also used for Hymn #303 (*The Day of Resurrection*) and Hymn #571 (*Go Make of All Disciples*).

Though it seems odd to us in the world of recorded music, the idea of mixing and matching tunes and lyrics is so traditional with hymns that the hymnal provides an index on pages 926 - 931 to help musicians do it. For example, on page 927 under the index 664.6664, the lyrics to hymns 61, 452, 568, and 697 can be sung to any of the three tunes listed (*America, Italian Hymn, and Olivet*).

In the beginning of the Methodist Movement, John and Charles Wesley saw the value of music. They recognized that, just like the *ABC Song*, music could be used to teach people about God. One of the early hallmarks of the people called Methodist was that we were a singing people.

Take Hymn #355 (*Depth of Mercy*). Charles Wesley wrote the lyrics in 1740 and set them to the tune *Canterbury* written by Orlando Gibbons in 1623:

1. Depth of mercy! Can there be 3. I my Master have denied,
Mercy still reserved for me? I afresh have crucified,
Can my God his wrath forbear, Oft profaned his hallowed name,
Me, the chief of sinners, spare? Put him to an open shame.
2. I have long withstood his grace, 4. There for me the Savior stands,
Long provoked him to his face, shows his wounds and spreads his hands.
Would not hearken to his calls, God is love! I know, I feel;
Grieved him by a thousand falls. Jesus weeps and loves me still.
5. Now incline me to repent,
Let me now my sins lament,
Now my foul revolt deplore,
Weep, believe, and sin no more.

Through these lyrics, Charles Wesley teaches, in song, about God's love for us. In the first four verses, Wesley teaches that God's love for us exists before we believe, what John Wesley called Prevenient Grace, "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8. In the first three lines of verse five, Charles teaches about the moment of belief, the moment of repentance - Justifying Grace. And, just at the end, beginning the journey to "sin no more", to "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" - Matthew 5:8 - the lifelong quest toward holiness, what John Wesley called Sanctifying Grace.

The hymns we sing are about the faith we profess. They were carefully selected to bring us closer to the truth of God's love. Take the time to read the lyrics and see what they have to teach us.

Thanks for listening. Adios.

- Steve Curry