



## CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

A Bi-Weekly Publication – Issue Date: 06/27/11

### St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

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**Michael Fletcher-Taylor, Pastor**

Our Vision Statement: To enable our family of believers to lead our community to Jesus Christ through love and the sharing of God's Word and to be an inviting refuge of comfort.



**A Word**

**From the Pastor**

Dear St Matthew's Family,

This past Sunday I preached a sermon that talked about how, as a church, we stand at a crossroads and face a choice on which direction we will go. Do we make the choice to grow, to step out in faith and follow the difficult path of inviting not only our friends and family to worship but also the stranger—the guest—that God sends us to welcome with Christian hospitality? Or do we choose the status quo and try to hold on to what we have or even return to the “good old days” and of course if we were honest were really not that good after all? I reminded us that on the Saturday night of our fire a stranger chose a difficult path and saved our church building from being destroyed. This choice not only affected his life but it poured a blessing on the life of this church in ways that we cannot even know yet. And I suggested that there were four steps that I believe God is calling St Matthew's to do as a church family if we are to choose to grow and are willing to step out in faith:

1. **INVITE.** God has been preparing us for the past six years to welcome guests into our worship. We have three very different worship services that guests can choose from and it is our responsibility to invite guests to worship. And when we invited these guests we chose growth over the status quo. Is it easy to invite someone to worship? No! But with God all things are possible even when we are called to move outside our comfort zone.
2. **WELCOME.** I want to invite anyone who would like to find practical ways to welcome guests into our worship to join me in the powerful book study beginning the middle of July. The book we will be looking at is Nelson Searcy's book *Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church* and this book offers us a step-by-step, biblically-grounded, tested and proven plan for establishing a relationship with newcomers that starts with the first seven minutes of their visit and ultimately prompts them to become fully developing members of our congregation.
3. **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP.** In one of my update letters about the fire I asked you to pray about our financial condition. So far this year we have not worshipped on three Sunday's--two during the ice storms and one Sunday after the fire. This means we had three Sunday's without two offerings each Sunday. In addition our financial condition is not as good as it was for the past several years and most of this is because of the bad economy we have been facing as a nation. And of course we will be facing some additional costs because of

the fire including a \$2,500 insurance deductible. I believe that as a church family we can reach a little deeper into our pockets and put the church on firm financial ground again so that we can continue with the mission and ministry that God has called us to do here at St. Matthew's. If you are tithing I am asking you to pray about giving a second mile gift. If you are a proportional giver I am asking you to pray about increasing your giving each week and consider moving towards the tithe. But regardless we need your prayers and we need your extra gifts. Some might say that they just can't give any additional but let me tell you a story. Our 60's plus group was to meet and share a meal last Saturday. This group of older adults decided that instead of going out to eat they asked each person to take the money they would spend on lunch and give it to the church as an offering. Maybe that doesn't sound like much but IF 100 people who normally spend \$5.00 a week on eating out would give that \$5.00 as an offering that would be an additional \$500.00 a week and \$26,000 a year. This would go a long way towards healing our financial health. There are two buckets that you can drop \$5.00 bills into each week and they are located in the narthex.

4. **PRAYER.** The final step is for us to commit to being in prayer for the church and the church leadership each and every day. Let me tell you a story about the power of prayer that I experienced on Monday after the fire. That morning about 11am our new DS Dan Peil stopped by to check out our fire damage and how we are doing as a church family. I spent some time showing him around and visiting with him about the church. As we were standing in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall he took my hand and asked if he could pray for me and for us as a church family. Here's the deal: Dan is the first DS that has ever just dropped by to check on me or my church and also the first DS to pray for me and my church in the middle of a dark hall. I believe that this is a sign from God to us that God is with us and wants us to spend time praying for what God is calling us to do as a church family.

These four steps can change the life of St Matthew's and can move us as a church family into effective long term growth. Please consider these steps and be prepared for an exciting journey that God has planned for St Matthew's.

Grace and peace, Pastor Michael

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
**‘Come and See’ what is happening in worship at St. Matthew’s**

**LOOKING FOR THE NEW YOU**

The number one thing that determines whether you are happy or unhappy, whether you succeed or fail, whether you grow or stagnate is how you look at things. It is your perspective. Your perspective determines your purpose and your passion. Your perspective determines your place in history. It’s how you see things. I’m talking about everything – how you see God, see yourself, see life, see money. Everything that you have in your life or do in your life or want to be in your life is controlled by how you see it; by your perspective. The Bible tells us that faith and perspective are very closely related. Hebrews 11:1 says, “*Faith is the evidence of things not seen.*” You don’t see it from a physical viewpoint; you see it from a spiritual viewpoint.

**July 3, 2011**  
**Guest Speaker**

**July 10, 2011**

**Sermon: Looking For the New You...**

**GOD’S SECRET TO A TOTAL MAKEOVER**

**Scripture: “*May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (TEV)**

**“*Be made new in the attitude of your minds.*” Ephesians 4:23 (NIV)**

**“*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*” Romans 12:2 (NIV)**

**Listening to God’s Voice**

We are beginning a new mini series on understanding how to listen for God’s voice. Listening for God’s voice is so important because you can’t have a relationship with God if you can’t hear God speak to you. If all you do is talk to God in prayer and you never hear God speak to you that is only a one-way relationship. God wants to speak to you and so the question becomes: how do we prepare our hearts in order to hear God speak.

**July 17, 2011**

**Sermon: Listening to God’s Voice...**

**GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU**

*(Parable of the Four Soils)*

**Scripture: “*Jesus: “He who has ears to hear let him hear!”* Luke 8:8 (NIV)**

**July 24, 2011**

**Sermon: Listening to God’s Voice...**

**RECOGNIZING GOD’S VOICE**

**Scripture: “*What you think is the right road may lead to death.*” Pr. 14:12 (GN)**

**“*Don’t believe everything you hear just because someone says it is a message from God; test it first to see if it really is!” 1 John 4:1 (LB)***

**Jesus: “*Anyone who wants to do God’s will can test this teaching and know whether it’s from God or whether I’m making it up.” John 7:17 (MSG)***

July 31, 2011

Sermon: Listening to God's Voice...

## GETTING GOD'S VISION FOR MY LIFE

Scripture: *"I will climb up into my watchtower now and wait to see what the Lord will say to me and how he will answer my (question). Then the Lord said to me, 'Write my answer in large, clear letters so that a runner can read it and tell everyone else. But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. I will not be delayed.'"* Habakkuk 2:1-2 (NLT)

### Inviting Jesus to Dinner

We are beginning a new series called Inviting Jesus to Dinner and it is just a little 2 week miniseries. It was the dinners with sinners that got Jesus in trouble. The religious people of Jesus' day just couldn't stand Jesus eating with sinners. And the really self-righteous folks didn't like it because Jesus hung out with all the wrong people. He was always going to dinners with sinners. He was always partying with people they didn't like, people they didn't think he should be hanging out with. We will examine what these stories say to us as we invite the outsider to our gathering around the table.



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE**

5:45 - 6:30 p.m.	Community Dinner and Fellowship
6:30 - 7:15 p.m.	<i>An Alternative Worship Experience</i>
7:15 - 8:30 p.m.	Choir practice

**COMMUNITY DINNERS** (*Donations welcomed*)

June 29th	July 6th
	<u>Salad Bar</u> Leaf lettuce Carrots Diced tomatoes Shredded cheese Cucumbers Pickles - Chopped onion Jalapenos - Bacon bits - Olives Dressing - Ranch, Italian, French
	<u>Fruit Bowl</u> Grapes, strawberries, pineapple, bananas
<u>Sandwich Night</u> Cold cuts (ham, turkey, cheese) BBQ beef Potato salad & chips Slices onions & Tomatoes	<u>Baked Potato Bar</u> Baked Potatoes Chili Cheese, Bacon Bits, Sour Cream

**Average Worship Attendance - 2011**

January	156	April	177	July		October		Annual 2009	155
February	148	May		August		November		Annual 2010	158
March	156	June		September		December		Annual 2011	



**2011 MOWING SCHEDULE**

If at all possible, please don't mow earlier than Thursday of each week.

June	30	Team 3	Michael Lenhart, Rusty Colvin, Pastor Michael
July	7	Team 4	Paul & Barbara Youngblood, Chuck Wise, Harry Arnold

## PRAYER CONCERNS 6-19-11

*GALATIANS 5:20-23: "WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CONTROLS OUR LIVES, HE WILL PRODUCE THIS KIND OF FRUIT IN US: LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL.*

- Barbara Youngblood is asking for prayers for Paul's cousin, Donnie, who is going to M.D. Anderson in Houston for a consultation for bladder cancer.
- Barbara also has a Praise Report - Paul's great nephew, Cooper, has been released from the hospital. Continued prayers are needed as he will need another surgery.
- Tammie Blessing is asking for prayers for her son, Christopher, who is recovering from emergency surgery.
- Virgie Bachelder would appreciate continued prayers for Richard - she is noticing improvement with each day.
- Continued prayers are needed for Judi Olsen and her mother Arlene Harper.
- Continued prayers for Marge Perry and her sister Carol. Carol's spirits need to be uplifted - she's been back and forth in the hospital this past week.
- Deanna Rocha is asking for continued prayers for her friend, Steve Whitehead, who is undergoing chemo through July.
- Continued prayers for June Vannoy, her mother and family.

### Bereavement

- Marie Loveless and family
- Leona Robinson and family
- Joyce Hargrove and family
- Janie & Lawrence Long and family
- Louise Coursey and family

### Ongoing Prayers

- Warren & Pauline Grove; Kay Holt's son Brady Rousset; Judi Olsen's friend Pat Elias, Deanna Peterson and her sisters Charlotte & Kathleen; Smokey & Judy Tipton, Martha Sabourin's mother Elizabeth and son Richard; Bob Staebler and his son Paul; Mary Saville; Louise Coursey, Frances Martin; Mary Trumbull; Bettie Fry; Janie & Lawrence Long; Barbara Roderick's niece Bonnie Dust and friends Renee Palos & Linda and Jim Carroll.

## PRAYER CONCERNS 6-25-11

*PHILIPPIANS 4:6 - "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done."*

- Joyce Hargrove is asking for continued prayers for Bonita Young who is in St. John's Hospital with health issues - Bill needs our prayers as well.
- Joyce is also asking for prayers for Nancy Famelos who will be having more surgery on Monday, the 27th. Please pray for healing and strength for both her and her husband, Nasos and all the family during this trying time. Nancy is at the Hillcrest Hospital in long term acute care, 1120 S. Utica, Room 302, Tulsa, OK 74104, 918/579-7302 .
- Sharon Polliard is asking for prayers for their friend, Jim Constantine who just had treatment for cancer and a shunt surgery for blockage in his leg. Prayers for him and his wife, Barbara, during this difficulty.
- Nina Frazier is asking for prayers for Scott Ferguson and family. He is still looking for a principle job.
- Bob Staebler needs your continued prayers for his infected heel - it is not healing like he was in hopes it would. He needs a miraculous healing touch.
- Continued prayers are needed for Richard Bachelder. Virgie notices some improvement with each day. Pray that his pain will be lifted soon.
- Judi Olsen and her mother, Arlene Harper are needing our continued prayers as well.
- Deanna Rocha would appreciate continued prayers for Steve Whitehead, her friend, who is under-going chemo through July.
- Prayers for Marge Perry in preparing for her trip to North Dakota to spend time with her sister Carol. Pray that her back will hold out through this trying time. Continue to pray for Carol and her health issues.
- Please pray for our dear friend, Alon Soderfelt who is on an extensive journey. Pray that all is being accomplished that was planned and that the dear Lord will bring her back home to us well and happy.

Don't forget to fill out a prayer request card on Sunday morning and put it in the collection plate. Pray for our military, our President and government leaders, our country, our Clergy, the jobless and homeless.

May all your days be 'Blessed Beyond Belief'. Yours in God's love, Barbara

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

04	USA	25	Patty Madole
05	Cameron Aguirre	26	Bonita Young
06	Harry Arnold	27	Tawnya McCammon
09	Warren Grove	30	Meredith McCammon
12	Kathy Pleake	31	Margaret Toni
24	Jeanine Keller		

Please contact Alon at 622-7006 to list your birthday.



**Happy 4th of July**

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

2 Corinthians 3:17



## SARAH CIRCLE

Everyone is invited to join us for Bible study and refreshments Tuesday at 9:30 in the Parlor. Bring your Bibles.

- June 28 Ephesians 2, 3; Philippians 2
- July 05 Colossians 1, 2; 1 Thessalonians 3; 2 Thessalonians 2

## IT'S BREAKFAST TIME - July 3rd

The VIM Team LOVES to cook breakfast for YOU! Join us Sunday, July 3rd, as we whip up your favorites - Patriotic Pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, biscuits 'n sausage gravy and more. Breakfast will be hot and ready for you from 7:30 until 9:15. And as always, we THANK YOU for supporting our breakfasts and mission trips.

The VIM TEAM



## VIM to Joplin, MO

The Oklahoma VIM has asked for VIM leaders to start forming teams for future work in Joplin, MO. I know that a lot of churches have already been there - Dr. Mike & Giselle's son-in-law Clint, has been to Joplin, and I have a friend who went with Samaritan's Purse. But the last communication that I received from the VIM office was that ERT is there, and teams are being formed for future trips to Joplin. I am willing to take a team if there are enough people interested. It would not be a weeklong trip (I don't have enough vacation left for that) but a Thursday - Saturday or Friday - Saturday stay. If it has been on your heart to do something for the people of Joplin, please let me know. You will need to be able to tolerate the heat, squat, and lift as I'm sure that we would be doing clean-up work at this point in time. I'm sure there will be many opportunities in the future for re-building and more inside jobs.

Deanna Rocha  
Mission Chair



## RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

Our church is responsible for meals at Ronald McDonald House once a month on the 4th Thursday.

**July 28<sup>th</sup>** we need one person to furnish a main dish and two people to furnish desserts.

**August 25<sup>th</sup>** we need someone to furnish a dessert.

Please call Joyce Hargrove at 918-437-0173 to volunteer. Your help will be so much appreciated. Thank you.



## POP CAN TABS

Please continue to bring pop can tabs to the Fellowship Hall.

A person has volunteered to take them.

Thank you!

Kathy Pleake



## June 2011 Needs

General shelter needs – men's underwear all sizes, women's underwear sizes 10 & larger, men's crew socks, and bath towels.

Clinic needs – clean pill bottles, chap stick, orasol gel, and sunscreen.

Newly housed clients – New or gently used household items: skillets, sauce pans, ladles, turners, large spoons, dishwashing liquid, all-purpose cleaner, alarm clocks (with batteries if needed), current year calendars, pot holders, dish towels, can openers, bath & hand towels, and land line phones. Pantry items for housed clients: chunky soups with meat, stew, chili, tuna, canned chicken & ham, spaghetti sauce, macaroni & cheese, tuna or hamburger helper, peanut butter, and toilet paper.

If you would like to learn more about the Tulsa Day Center, you can read about their programs on their website - <http://www.tulsadaycenter.org/>. Click on the newsletter link to read about the first six persons they have placed in permanent housing. Your contributions help make this happen.

Deanna Rocha  
Mission Chair

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**Don't forget! The deadline** to submit articles for the **July 11<sup>th</sup>** newsletter is **Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 a.m. Please send articles to the church at [stmatts@tulsacoxmail.com](mailto:stmatts@tulsacoxmail.com) and be sure to copy [mmccammon235@gmail.com](mailto:mmccammon235@gmail.com). Thanks.



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