
St. Matthew Today

Wed., August 30th, 2023

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 126th year

September – At Last!

Friday's Word

No reason for most people to be aware (my book, *Discovering God*, is not out yet), but I do claim to know something about religious and near-death experiences.

I first met God through experience when I was 14 and have studied such encounters ever since.

I have had, throughout my life, a good deal of what William James called "business with God."

No, I don't know why.

I do know that these experiences are part of my call to ministry.

They help shape the message I proclaim in Jesus' name. For the God I know through experience is the God I know in Christ.

And here is what I am always trying to tell you:

God is not silent.

God is accessible.

God is knowable.

Einstein said that "we know all that we know through experience."

Note the "all."

This includes God.

Everything in the Bible which is right about God is a product of experience.

Those first disciples *experienced* God through Jesus. Paul tells us he received the whole of the gospel he preached directly from an *experience* of the Risen Christ.

God is *knowable*.

Theology is not a matter of guesswork. It is not just opinion. It can be as accurate as math.

This is how we can know Jesus is right about God.

The God we meet in experience is the God we know through Christ—a God of unconditional love.

And this is how we know the author of the book of *Revelation* is wrong.

The vengeful God of *Revelation* does not exist.

How do I know?

Jesus—and experience—tell me so.

God Bless—MB

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This Sunday

I did not do the great parable I used last week justice. This week—new sermon on the same scripture: Matthew 20:1-16. Sermon title: "What's the Deal?"

It is first Sunday. We will gather at the Lord's Table.

About the Concert

Hey!—according to my calculations, the next concert is a week from this Saturday! It's just me. I better get high behind! I have to get the music to Jason by this Sunday so he can do the playlist. Will people come out to see "just me"?

I have no idea.

Some of the music will be surprising.

Concert title: "The Gospel in Story and Song"

I am singing some stuff I love to sing. So we know at least one person will have a good time. (Me!)

The offering was over a thousand dollars at the last concert. And we had a lot of guests. These concerts seem to be doing an important work in the church.

September—at last!

I am excited about the months ahead.

Our church remains a lively place. (Remember—breakfast every Sunday before worship.)

We start a new Sunday school class in late October.

We may break ground soon on the new playground for our children.

We resume a St. Matthew tradition—a big Christmas Concert.

And I will actually take a vacation this year—first in five years. (Gone the first two Sundays of October.)

And who knows? It may get cooler.

I will be looking Sunday—for you.

And I hate being disappointed.

GOD BLESS---MB

East District Gathering with Bishop Saenz

Saturday, October 14th at 10 am

New World United Methodist Church

2201 N Davis Drive, Arlington, TX 76112

Clergy and Laity invited.

Mary's Corner

Good Wednesday Saint Matthew,

I pray that you are enjoying a bit of time outside this week as cooler temperatures are gracing our lives. Unlike the eternal grace of God, however, these temperatures are only here for the week. We will be back into 3 digits by the end of this week and for all next week. Fall is coming; it just may not happen until November! I am closely watching the COVID numbers on the Tarrant County website, as well as monitoring our hospital census for a rise in COVID admissions. So far, only a slight rise in cases. I cannot stress enough, that if you have any kind of immunity issues, or any chronic illness (especially lung-related), please wear a mask in public, avoid large crowds, and wash your hands frequently. We will watch the numbers to determine if we need to make any adjustments at church and we are prepared with masks and hand sanitizer for any untoward events. May the peace of God flood your soul right now. As you read these lines remember I love you and I am praying for you.

Blessings, Mary
pastor@saintmatthewumc.com

Kids' News

We are blessed to have Brian McClosky putting together a flyer to be mailed to the immediate area informing families about the Sunday school program our church has to offer along with other special services.

We have a lesson prepared every week for our youngsters. And we share this lesson with everyone who will listen! It seems that the early Christians loved to get together and celebrate! This week we learned of yet another festival that included all people. The Festival of Booths is an observance of when the Israelites were in the wilderness, God provided them booths to dwell in. This was held at a time in ancient Israel when the harvest season was over and it celebrated all that God had provided His people to survive.

This Festival was filled with prayers of thanksgiving to God for His fruitfulness. Much like our Thanksgiving, I am sure this was much more inclusive, everyone was invited! This is a good lesson for everyone to remember to include everyone in our meetings and our prayers. See you in church.

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

Ladies of St. Matthew

Please join us for lunch on 9/21/23 at 11:30 am
RSVP by 9/18 to Veta McCulloch - 817-994-1629
vetamcculloch@outlook.com

Sunday Breakfast

Breakfast is served Sunday mornings at 10 am. Stay for service at 11 am. Come hungry. Leave fulfilled!

Chair Yoga

Join your friends at our free Chair / Standing Yoga class each Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 10 am.



Second Saturday Concert Series

Don't miss our next concert on Saturday, September 9th at 6 pm.

**Musical performance by Rev. Max Brennan
Potluck dinner after the concert.**

Give to Saint Matthew UMC

Please feel free to contribute in any way you can and help us in our efforts to continue spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the community and the world.

Scan the QR code with your phone to securely give online or visit our website at saintmatthewumc.com/give

