

# St. Matthew Today

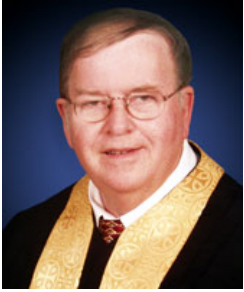
Wed., Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 127<sup>th</sup> year

## Now – From the Other Side

### Friday's Word



I may have caused some discomfort these last two weeks. I provoked one reader to say, "You have now gone crazy."

I've been talking about extravagant ways God may intervene in our lives.

One woman reported to me that just as her car was about to plow into a truck, both vehicles seemed to dematerialize—and passed *through* each other. Not even a dent. No one was hurt.

I have eight similar accounts. They say it takes three trees to make a row.

Eight is a small forest!

Now, let me take it from the other side: Scott, age 18, was grieving the death of the friend who helped him get off drugs. Marty died at just 17.

After Marty died, Scott's grief was so strong he started to think of drugs again. Then, one night as he slept on the couch in his living room, his world changed. Let Scott tell it:

*"I was awake.*

*The clock said 2:05.*

*And suddenly, there was Marty 10 feet away from me. I sat in shock. One part of me was scared—but I was also happy.*

*He came over to me. It was light all around us. He said, "Don't be upset, OK? I'm happy. Don't keep your mind on me. Go on with your life."*

*He was smiling like he never did in life. I gave him a hug. I could smell his scent and feel his body heat. I felt his breath when he talked. It was the weirdest thing.*

*Then he was gone."*

Scott was lifted—and stayed off drugs.

But note the physical element of the encounter.

Matter can move from insubstantial to substantial.

Or, scientists would say, from wave to particle and back to wave.

God has made the world so that what God wants to happen, can happen.

## God Bless—MB

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#### Work to Be Done

We have several things we need to do.

We want to obtain devices for the hearing impaired.

Mary wants the big TV hooked into our system so that we can use it for presentations.

We have some lights that do not work and some that do not work right.

I announced that we would raise the money to do the work. But we do have money to cover it now and have decided to move on with the work.

I want us to stay up with everything. I am way too old to have to deal with financial problems. (Been there, done that—for 30 years.) But if we continue to be faithful with our giving, we will be able to get this necessary work done without any problems.

I look forward to getting the projects completed by Easter. Chuy's men at 4Stage—who installed our system—will do the work.

#### Breakfast

We are still looking for one or two people to do breakfast for one or two Sundays in the month. I know it's a job. But let me (or Winston or Mary) know if you are willing to help.

#### Communion Sunday

The sermon is called: "Just Face Reality." We will talk about a wonderful (and humorous) story from John's gospel about a man born blind and healed by Jesus. But the authorities simply and repeatedly refused to believe the man. Shannon has a solo for us. Blake is gone with his school choir on a trip.

We gather at the Lord's Table.

It's only four Sundays to Holy Week.

Remember our Mardi Gras lunch on Palm Sunday, March 24. (Yes, we have "Fat Tuesday" on Sunday. Don't tell the Catholics.)

See You in worship.

God bless—MB



# Mary's Corner



Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ,  
Hello dear St. Matthew,

Just a quick note to tell you how very much I love you and appreciate the many ways you take care of me and my family. Anna is still in critical condition but is slowly improving. I am grateful for your prayers and support. Tyler has gone back to work and stays with her at night. Anna's parents are helping every day, and we have the help of many special angels to fill in the gaps.

Great news to share on the shoe front: We have received pledges for 35 pairs of shoes for Blake's Western Hills Choir. We even have enough funds to purchase socks! Blessings to you for responding so quickly. I know Blake asked for used black shoes and we are getting them new ones instead. However, East Side Ministry always needs used shoes. If you still want to bring them to the church, we can get them to where they are needed most.

Blessings to you during this week of crazy weather. When this is published on Wednesday morning, the temp will have dropped 20+ degrees from what it is as I write. Summer AND winter in February.

Love to all, Mary  
[pastor@saintmatthewumc.com](mailto:pastor@saintmatthewumc.com)

## All-Council Meeting

Immediately following Sunday Service there will be an All-Council Meeting in the Fellowship Hall for an important vote.

## March 5 Primary Election at SMUMC

Volunteers are needed after the All-Council Meeting to break down tables in the Fellowship Hall for upcoming election on March 5th.

## Ladies of Saint Matthew

Join us for our monthly luncheon on Thursday, March 14th at 11:30 am. The Ladies met in February and have decided on a service project which involves making fleece throws/blankets for nursing home residents. We would love for more women to attend if they are interested in participating in this project.

Although it is helpful to have RSVP, we usually anticipate and prepare for more. RSVP to Veta McCulloch at 817-449-2063 or Carol Bennett at 817 929-9383

## Methodist Discipleship Class

Details coming soon! Over 6 weeks we will meet via Zoom. The class is for those who are new Methodists, or who did not grow up in the church.

## Media Team Volunteers!

Saturday, March 9th at 2 p.m.

Anyone who would like to learn more about what happens behind the scenes for sound and video is encouraged to attend an open training session in the sanctuary. Please contact Mel or Jason for more details.

# Kids' News

This week we discussed Zacchaeus. Vickie and I started the lesson by singing the song we learned when we were young, maybe you remember ...

*Zacchaeus was a wee, little man,  
And a wee, little man was he.  
He climbed up in a sycamore tree,  
For the Lord he wanted to see.*

*And as the Savior came that way,  
He looked up in the tree,*

*And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down from there,"*

*For I'm going to your house today.  
For I'm going to your house today.*

... I will spare you the rest, but we sang as much as we remembered! The kids must have thought we lost our minds, but they listened quietly, and I know they will remember this lesson!

Zacchaeus was a tax collector; they were not liked because they would collect more money than the Roman government asked for and put the balance in their pocket. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, which meant that he was one of the best and probably very rich.

Jesus was passing through Jericho, and because he was so short, Zacchaeus climbed up a tree so he could see Jesus. Jesus saw him in the tree and told him to come down because he was going to his house today.

Why did Jesus choose to go to the home of a sinner to have a meal? Zacchaeus wanted to change his ways and asked to be forgiven.

How do you handle someone who has done you wrong and asked to be forgiven? Do you believe in second chances? With the help and guidance of Jesus, we can all learn that there is opportunity for second chances.

We all moved outside for our project. We made bird feeders out of pine cones. We found that birds love peanut butter with their seeds. It was a beautiful day and sitting at the picnic table and enjoying the sunshine made for a perfect day.

See you in church...  
Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

## Scheduled Giving

You can make a special gift or automate monthly giving to Saint Matthew from your checking account or credit / debit card. Contributions in any amount help us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the community and the world.

"Gain all you can. Save all you can.  
Give all you can." - John Wesley

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera or visit our website  
<https://saintmatthewumc.com/give>

