

# St. Matthew Today

Wed., Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 128<sup>th</sup> year

## Jesus Got God Right

### Friday's Word



We can know God.  
Millions of people have actually met God.

They have encountered God in experience.

Consider this from Bill Wilson, founder of AA. In a moment of desperation, he cried out to God to show himself:

*Suddenly the room was filled with a bright white light. I felt an ecstasy beyond words. All about me and through me was a wonderful presence. I thought, so this is the God preachers talk about.*

Here God answered a prayer both obviously and immediately. I've had this happen to me a couple of times.

Every encounter with God gives us information about God. Every mystical event, every NDE, tells us something about God's nature.

So, I began to wonder:

What kind of God would we come up with if we looked only at information from experiences?

I began work on my book, *Discovering God*. (Not yet published.)

I would set the Bible aside, set aside my own theology, and be entirely open to the God we meet in experience.

My book examines over 100 profound stories of personal encounters with God.

And what kind of God did I discover? A God of infinite love—the God we know in Christ. I even ended up at the Cross and the Resurrection.

I did not discover the rough and vindictive God of *Revelation* and some Old Testament passages.

That God does not exist.

In experience, we meet the God revealed in *The Sermon on the Mount*.

Experience tells us Jesus got God exactly right.

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Sunday, May 5, is Special Giving Day at St. Matthew. I invite your gift.

*God Bless—MB*

[saintmatthewumc.com](http://saintmatthewumc.com)  
[revmaxb@tx.rr.com](mailto:revmaxb@tx.rr.com)

It's at the Botanical Gardens this Friday.

It starts at 6:30. Ticket price is \$75 per plate. That's because this is a fundraiser for the poor on the Eastside of Fort Worth. Raising money is what it is about. But the buffet will be good.

I am the event MC. Blake and Shannon will sing.

You can still get tickets. Just call Bill Parker: 817-296-0065.

#### Breakfast this Sunday

"Let's Bring It" Sunday worked well for breakfast. The third Sunday (this Sunday) is a Winston week. Breakfast begins at 10:30.

#### Sunday's Sermon

My sermon for Sunday is not the one I announced last week. The new title: Believe It or Not.

Our choir will sing: Jesus Never Failed Me Yet

#### Help! Please

We have a temporary problem. But it won't be a problem if enough people give a special gift on Sunday, May 5. (Or give it earlier—writing "Special gift" on your offering.)

We did not sufficiently prepare for this lag in our finances. I plan for us to do better next year. And we do need to increase our monthly income to avoid this happening again, but this will come with time.

By the way, your giving is entirely private. Only our Treasurer ever sees your gifts. There is never any pressure in giving.

This is God's business we are in.

"Relax—and trust."

God always sees us through.

Our love to our members who are ill.

You are in our prayers.

May the Lord hold you in his care.

#### God bless—MB

By the way—are you aware that in two years—2026—we will celebrate the 130th Anniversary

of this congregation? We began life in 1896 in a Victorian clapboard church on Bessie Street. And the best is yet to come.



# Mary's Corner



Greetings to you in the name of the risen Christ,

I am grateful that our choir will be back this Sunday. We are singing a song, *He Never Failed Me Yet*. It is a beautiful song, in spite of the fact that God is identified as "HE." I am looking forward to our spring choir events. I am also grateful to announce that our church concerts are starting back

this spring. Max is arranging the first two concerts. In June, we will be blessed with performances by Cassandra Kirby and Nicholas Garza, professional musicians from the DFW area, and good friends of Blake. I will have more details as we get closer but the concert is on June 8th at 7 pm. This will be an event you do not want to miss and one that you will want to bring all your friends to enjoy.

On a serious note, I am requesting a committed and concerted prayer response from the members of our church for Julie and Tracy, Mac and Faith, and Doug and Sue. Also, our sister Suzanne is home but still battling leg issues. The prayer list is kept a private part of our website. If you have questions or concerns about our prayer list, please contact me at [mary.teague@saintmatthewumc.com](mailto:mary.teague@saintmatthewumc.com).

Blessings and love to all of you! Mary

# Kids' News

This Sunday, we heard one of the amazing stories of Jesus' wonders and his amazing power to heal.

During biblical times, poor people who needed assistance would sit by the gates of the temple and ask for help from people who passed by. People sometimes would give them money, food, or clothes. Jesus instructed people to give to anyone who asked.

In this story, when a man who is crippled sees Peter and John, he immediately asks them for money. However, Peter tells the man they have no money for him but offers something better. Peter commands the man to rise in the name of Jesus and then pulls him up by the hand. The man is healed by the power of Jesus and begins to walk, leap, and praise God. He even joins Peter and John in the temple. People are amazed to see the man who was unable to move on his own for so long up and able to move freely.

Children also encounter people who need help. They may not know what to do, but we can all help with a small task or assist one person at a time.

This story includes amazement and surprise, common responses to these kinds of healings. When we don't know what to do, we can pray. Our kids made prayer jars to remind them that they could write prayers and put them in their jars to be taken out when they needed to pray. See you in church.

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

## **Eastside Ministries 40th Anniversary**

Friday, April 19 · 6:30 - 9:30pm

Fort Worth Botanic Gardens.

See Bill Parker for more information.

## **New Study: Near-Death Experiences**

Sunday mornings from 9:50 - 10:30 am

Starting after Easter, Jackie Brennan will conduct a 6-week study of near-death experiences.

## **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.

## **Sunday Breakfast**

Served at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall

## **Chair/Standing Yoga**

Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 10 a.m.

## **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>

