

Saint Matthew Today



Max's Corner

Ash Wednesday—Next Week

It is not this Wednesday, but I am working on the service today. Wednesday, March 5—

6:00 pm for a sandwich supper and 6:30 pm for the service.

It's a hard world we live in right now. Our spirits need nourishment. Come to this service, which begins Lent—our journey to the Cross.

The Anthem

Every Time I Feel the Spirit. Again, a major impact within the sanctuary—and it also sounded great online.

Remember, we have several hundred who worship with us each week from their homes. And our new equipment will improve those online services.

New Audio/Video Equipment

The Church Council took the plunge Sunday and voted to revamp our audio/video equipment. There wasn't much choice in it, since our old soundboard died, and we needed to move Jason and Robert out of the hot, cramped attic booth.

But we are going further than we have to—getting three new cameras and possibly four. We love for people to be in church, but many of our people can't be physically present. We want to do our best for them.

Discovering God Class

This week—what people see when they are dying. For most people, heaven starts before they leave this earth. Our class begins at 9:45 am. Join anytime. Breakfast after.

Breakfast This Sunday

This is a "Winston Sunday." You can still help. Breakfast is at 10:30.

Transfiguration Sunday

It may not be big in your book—but it is in mine. The Transfiguration story is one of the most important in the Bible. Sermon title: "When God Speaks—Listen!" We had 70 last Sunday. We will close this week with *Victory in Jesus*. And yes—we gather at the Lord's Table. Communion Sunday.
God Bless — MB

HEAR THIS! Check elsewhere in these pages for the time of Julian's performance this Saturday.

Mary's Corner

Trust. Commit. Be Still. Refrain.



Hello, dear church

These four instructions sound easy on paper. I am writing this article on Tuesday at 3:45 PM, and I can tell you that since Sunday at 12:30, when I left the church, I have trusted God implicitly. But I'm still working on the other three.

Many distractions in life keep us from spending quality time with God. I understand that, and I recognize it as an area for improvement in my life. Being still and refraining—also known as thinking before I speak—have never been my strong suit, and I know there is still much work to do. I guess the point of starting your newsletter like this is to let you know that we are all a work in progress for God, walking the path to holiness and sanctification together.

The great thing about this journey is that God, through His grace, is the one who makes us holy and sanctified. Our part is to invest in the acts of worship that create space in our hearts for His work. To be **sanctified** means to be set apart for God. I'm sure many of you already know that, but I wanted to share what it means to me. We are all set apart by God—set apart as His beloved children to share His love in this world.

I hope you all enjoyed our music Sunday morning and appreciated the experience of learning the background of these vitally important hymns. The history of **Methodism** and the **United Methodist Church** in the Black community is not a pretty one. The church has been involved in systems of oppression against Black people since before slavery was even a reality in the United States, and many of those actions were carried out in the name of Jesus Christ. I am grateful to be in a church where I can bring these truths into the open and where we can discuss ways to repair the trauma caused by our ancestors.

What a glorious thing to look out at our congregation and see so many willing to do so much for the Lord. You make my heart sing!

Three members of our congregation recently completed **Faith Community Health Promoter** training. **Carlene Wheeler, Lynette Coleman, and Kathy Callahan** are taking the lead in reviving our **Faith Community Nursing** program at Saint Matthew. We will be starting very soon with a class called *Matter of Balance*. I look forward to working with these three enthusiastic nurses.

One way to prevent falls in your life is to attend our **Chair Yoga** class on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 10:00 AM.**

Blessings and the peace of Christ to you all,

Mary



Julian Rodriguez Stars as Shrek!

Our very own Julian Rodriguez, from the Saint Matthew choir, will be taking on the lead role of Shrek in **Upright Theatre Company's** production of **Shrek: The Musical!**

Julian has been having a fantastic time bringing the lovable green ogre to life, and he would love for you to come out and support local theater!

Upright Theatre Company
2501 N. Main Street, Suite 210
Euless, TX 76039

Julian's Performance Dates:

- Sat, March 1 – 7:30 PM
- Fri, March 7 – 7:30 PM
- Sun, March 9 – 3:00 PM
- Sat, March 15 – 7:30 PM
- Fri, March 21 – 7:30 PM
- Sat, March 22 – 7:30 PM

Don't miss this fun-filled production—come cheer on Julian and enjoy a fantastic night of music and laughter!



Did you know?

We offer online giving through PayPal. Your gift can be drawn directly from a checking or debit account on any schedule you choose. Gifts of any amount help us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our community and the world via our online ministry.

Scan the QR code above with your phone's camera or visit our website to give online: saintmatthewumc.com/give

Friday's Word

"There's a Problem Here"

It was a hot summer day.

A few women of the church and I were sitting around a table, folding bulletins.

Janice walked in and said she felt like she was going to pass out crossing the hot parking lot.

"Oh, that feels so funny," said Nita, "looking down on your body like that."

We stopped folding.

We knew there must be a story. Nita said:

Well, I passed out once. My husband and I were in a hot New Orleans eatery in the days before air conditioning.

I passed right out—fell out of the booth onto the floor. Then I was above myself, looking down on myself.

I saw people rush over to help me.

But I could see only the upper part of my body. My lower body was under the table. I was really worried.

All I could think about was, 'I hope my skirt is pulled down.'

Then I got my breath, and I returned to my body.

After that, Nita thought "passing out" meant leaving the body.

She had never heard of out-of-body experiences.

Nita was able to see herself—and to think from a place outside her brain.

Take this seriously.

This is a common event.

Events like this—if we are truly reasonable—force us to consider the reality of the soul.

The Nita watching the body on the ground was the real Nita.

If she had died, the real Nita would have left her body behind and continued with her life. The body is not us. We are eternal.

We talked about this in class last Sunday. If you would like a Thursday evening Discovering God class, let me know.

Come. Grow in hope.

Worship is at 11:00.

God Bless—MB

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Kids' News



Tabitha: The Woman Who Came Back to Life

This Sunday, we met **Tabitha**, a woman known for her kindness and generosity. She had a ministry of sewing clothes for others, using her skills to serve her community. But one day, Tabitha became very ill and passed away.

The disciples in Joppa had heard of **Peter's** reputation as a healer, so they sent two people to a nearby town to ask for his help. When Peter arrived, he saw how much the community loved Tabitha—many people were mourning her loss. He sent everyone out of the room, knelt, and prayed. Then he turned to Tabitha and said, "**Tabitha, get up.**" She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and got up! The news of her healing spread quickly throughout Joppa.

What We Learned

Through **faith and community**, Tabitha was healed. Her life reminds us that kindness is powerful and that serving others is a way to show **God's love**.

When we work together to help those in need, we fulfill the role God has given us in His greater plan.

How can we **share kindness** and **serve others** like Tabitha did? Think about it, and we'll discuss your answers this Sunday in church!

See you then!

Blessings, Miss Vickie and Miss Sue