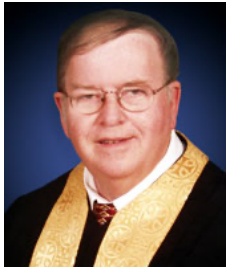


SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



Max's Corner

Let me clarify something.

Our livestream revamp is fully covered by an inheritance we received from two beloved members and good friends of mine, Fred Stearns and Eileen Engleson Stearns.

We could never have done this work without their gift, nor would we have even thought of doing it.

However, I would like to raise \$5,000 to \$6,000 and keep more of their gift in our “rainy-day fund.” It’s not essential to raise the money. I just feel it would be good to do so.

Listen—for most of my years at St. Matthew, we had a hard struggle financially. We always made it. I know that God has been with us all the way. But I like to keep things on the safe side.

I plan to give some to the project. I will also do a special concert to help raise funds. If you want to give something, wonderful.

If not, you know that’s fine too.

The project will be completed soon, and I consider it very important. Our livestream represents us to the world beyond our walls. And we want people to see us and know us as we are. In the future, this may be our main source of new members.

Fred and Eileen have allowed us to take on a big project. It includes completely rewiring our sound and video systems, building a new video booth, and installing new cameras.

I am deeply grateful to Fred and Eileen that we can do this work. They looked hard for a church like St. Matthew after they moved to Oklahoma. They never found one. Fortunately, they could still watch our services by livestream every Sunday.

They lived far away, but this was still their church. We thank God for them and their love for St. Matthew.

PENTECOST!!!

This is a great Sunday.

Put on something red and let’s celebrate the “Birthday of the Church.”

My sermon: *The Big Bang of Pentecost*

Look forward to some great special music.

And—yes—we WILL sing Pentecostal—

And—yes—we WILL hold those long notes until someone in the congregation passes out.

We won’t have our usual Pentecost meal after church, because the folks who work the kitchen have had to do it too often lately. They need a rest.

But we will have one great day in the name of our Lord. (By the way—it was good to have Mary back last week. She’ll preach on the 15th—a week from this Sunday.)

Discovering God Class

Listen! I promise you—there was no class in any church in the Metroplex, and perhaps in all of Texas, that had a better discussion than we had last week. What a great bunch of folks we have in this class!

This week, our long journey brings us to the cross.

Amazingly, our study of religious experience has brought us here.

Class begins at 9:45, followed by breakfast.

Breakfast This Sunday

It’s a “We-Bring” Sunday.

If we don’t bring—no breakfast.

Breakfast starts at 10:30.

Come early and eat.

This fellowship time is lovely.

The sermon this Sunday will remind us that God knows what is needed when it is needed. That was true at Pentecost—and it’s true in our lives.

Come. Rejoice with us.

Come. Let us learn of the Lord together.

Come. This Sunday.

God Bless,
—MB

Did you know?

Chair Yoga is offered Tue., Thur., Fri. at 10:00 AM

Looking for a gentle way to improve flexibility, balance, and strength? **Chair Yoga** is a low-impact exercise perfect for all ages and abilities, providing the benefits of yoga while seated or using a chair for support. Whether you’re recovering from an injury, managing mobility challenges, or simply looking for a relaxing way to move, this class is for you!

Mary's Corner



Blessings and peace, my siblings in Christ,

Seeing you all on Sunday filled my heart with joy! I cannot tell you how amazing it is to come home to such a loving and caring congregation. This was my first time to have a

“sabbatical” from both jobs, and while I very much love what I do for a living, I’ve come home with a new perspective on life, work, and the connection between the two.

Like many of you, I come from a generation that defines itself by what it does. We find our worth in what we *do* instead of who we *are*. That leaves very little room for exploring and enjoying anything unrelated to work. Being on sabbatical gave me a different perspective. I feel more present in what is happening *now* and less pressured to worry about what work needs to be done *next*. I hope to hold onto this presence and remember that the work is just the work—it will always be there.

This brings to mind Max’s sermon yesterday. The scripture in Acts describes the apostles as “staring off into the clouds.” The church is at high risk of doing the same—looking up, waiting for Jesus to return—when all around us, Jesus is active in the presence of the Holy Spirit. God has never left us, but we often take this story so literally that we imagine God is somewhere else, looking down on us. If you find yourself feeling that way, stop and breathe in the Holy Spirit. You *will* feel the power and presence of God immediately.

Also—a quick note of care: the temperatures have quickly risen, and the humidity is high enough that any time spent outdoors can put you at risk for heat exhaustion or dehydration. Try to plan your outdoor activities for early morning or late evening—and be ready to battle the mosquitoes! Please take care of yourselves as we enter another hot Texas summer.

Blessings and peace, always,
Mary

Friday's Word

by Rev. Max Brennan, Senior Pastor

I’ve got the Second Coming doctrine on my mind, and I can’t shake it.
So—let’s talk.

Most Christians believe it. It is ensconced in Scripture, in the Apostle’s Creed, and in the rubric for Holy Communion.

Preachers in mainline churches seldom mention it. Some conservative preachers talk of little else. Turn on the TV preachers and count how often you are told we are in the “End Times.” (And be sure to use your money before Jesus comes.)

So, the doctrine gets at least lip service from preachers afraid to talk about it—and a lot of talk time from preachers who think every earthquake brings us closer to the end.

But the church in general seems unsure why Jesus is coming back.

Paul has a rather pleasant picture. He says the Lord will return to take us all home to heaven. “We will not all die,” he says, “but we will all be changed... [and] the dead will be raised.”

Revelation has a grislier picture. Jesus rides in on a white horse and cuts off the heads of his enemies. The Revelation author makes sure we get the Messiah people expected in the first place: a military leader who will cast out the ugly Romans and rule the world from Jerusalem.

This fairly well cancels the Jesus of the Gospels—the man of sacrificial grace who told us to love our enemies.

Even Paul was wrong. He said, “We will not all die.” He expected Jesus to return in his lifetime. Help me here. Why do you think Jesus will return? Or did he mean it when he said from the cross, “It is finished”?

Drop me an e-mail. I’ll share responses next week.
saintmatthewumc.com
revmaxb@tx.rr.com

Kids' News

“Wind, Fire, and a Big Crowd”

It started with a sound—like a huge gust of wind rushing through the house. No one opened a door or cracked a window, but something powerful had entered the room.

Then it got even stranger.

The disciples looked at each other and saw what looked like tiny flames floating above their heads. No one was burned, but everyone knew something big was happening. It was the Holy Spirit, just like Jesus had promised.

Suddenly, they could speak in other languages—real ones! People from every country who were visiting Jerusalem heard the disciples talking and were amazed. Some asked, “What does this mean?” Others just laughed and said, “They’ve had too much wine!”

But Peter stood up and said, “We’re not drunk. It’s only 9 a.m. What you’re seeing is the power of God!” And he told the story of Jesus—how He lived, died, rose again, and offers new life to everyone. That day, three thousand people chose to follow Jesus.

It all started with wind and fire... but it changed the world forever.

What We Learned

- ✓ The Holy Spirit came just like Jesus promised.
- ✓ God gave the disciples courage to speak to everyone.
- ✓ Peter told the story of Jesus, and thousands believed.
- ✓ The Spirit still gives us strength to share God’s love today.

See you in church! Blessings always.

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