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A message from Rev. Bill...

A Harvest of Hope

“Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

Galatians 6:8-10

October Scripture Memory Verse:

*“Thy Word is a
lamp unto my
feet, and a light
unto my path.”*

*Psalm
119:105*



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For the most part, farmers collect their final harvest during the fall season. Seeds are planted, watered, and given warmth from the sun. At just the right time, fruits and vegetables are collected as a result of the summer's nurture. It is the farmer's faith in God's nature that for his labors a bountiful crop will be produced.

As Christians, we also share in the responsibility of producing a harvest. The harvest is not the food we eat, but of the people who sows a life that is pleasing to God. Just like the farmer of the earth, we plant seeds of faith through inspiring a life free from a sinful nature. How do we do this? By praying and reading God's word. In order for the seed to grow in our brothers and sisters, they need a firm foundation, a season of warmth from the Son, and the water of encouragement.

At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessings if we don't give up. Sow a seed of righteousness with everyone around you. Believe in a harvest of blessings and prosperity that is coming in your life!



SUNDAY MORNING PARTICIPANTS

Acolytes**

10/2 Sydney Capasso
 10/9 Christian Shrout
 10/16 Aydan Stormer
 10/23 Nate Capasso
 10/30 Blake Shrout

***There will be a short acolyte meeting for all MS & HS students after the service on October 2.*

Altar Guild

Nancy Williams

Coffee Hour Hosts

10/2 Andrew Hoffritz
 10/9 Dawn Goetz
 10/16 -
 10/23 Susannah Alexander
 10/30 Daniel Barrett

Greeters

10/2 Andrew, Juliet Hoffritz
 10/9 Ana Rodriguez, Tracy Majewski
 10/16 Doug & Beth Stormer
 10/23 -
 10/30 Chris Majewski

Lay Readers

10/2 Cheryl Larson
 10/9 Diane Miltz
 10/16 Judy Schaner
 10/23 Tracy Meyers
 10/30 Cindy Rich

Ushers: Team 1

Andy Federmann- Leader
 Clayton Errington
 Keith / Christian Kanaley
 Donn Mergenhagen
 Jeff Rich
 Kurt Rich

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



Sunday, October 2, 2016



On Sunday, October 2, we will be collecting a special mission offering. *Neighbors in Need* is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice

and compassion throughout the United States. For more information or to make an online donation, go to ucc.org/nin.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible.

THE UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

September-October daily devotionals are available to everyone. They can be found on the table in the Narthex. Help yourself!

ATTENDANCE

SEPTEMBER

4	100
11	128 (Rally Day)
18	119
25	111

Mark your calendars: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 23rd immediately after the service. We will vote on the nominations for open positions on Council, Spiritual Life, Mission and BCE, as well as the Nominating Committee. We will also review and vote to approve all annual reports and the 2017 budget.



- 4 Shirley Haberman
- 4 Liam Keefe
- 5 Linda Velazquez
- 7 Eli Hamm
- 8 Emma Rich
- 10 Carla Shrout
- 11 Andrea Capasso
- 11 Kimberly Rich
- 12 Kaylee Knisely
- 14 Chris Goetz
- 14 Vivian Kamp
- 14 Pam Lach
- 14 Kimm Radon
- 15 Cindy Rich
- 16 Joyce Corlett
- 16 Dolly Errington
- 21 Isabella DeMeo
- 21 Jack DeMeo
- 21 Bob Majewski
- 22 Jay Rich III
- 22 Natalie McCardle
- 23 Ruth Bernhardt
- 28 LaDonna Painter
- 29 Sara Keefe

Family of Tom Lapertosa (LaDonna Painter's father-in-law)
 Family of Baby Leon (Parents, Hannah & Logan (Robyn Federmann's niece)
 Gary Rich
 Barbara Middaugh
 Karen Kaitanowski
 Those in the Military & Veterans
 Stephen Ministers & their
 Care Receivers



Those who are Homebound:
 Sy LaVett
 Those Residing in Assisted Living:
 Maxine Helm
 Lois McMoil
 Jan Poppendeck
 Miriam Sheffield



Mike & Holly Dobrick
 October 7, 1995

Gary & Marilyn Rich
 October 13, 1962

David & Karen Cuddihy
 October 10, 1992



Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers and cards during my father in-law's illness and his passing on September 19th.
 LaDonna Painter

Note from Altar Guild

It's that time again to start thinking of the holidays and decorating the Sanctuary. Alta Guild will once again sponsor the Poinsettia Garden.

Watch for more details in the November newsletter and Sunday bulletin.



UPDATE



- Please stop by the table in the Narthex by Sunday, October 2,
- to check out your personal information (including contact info, birth dates, wedding anniversaries) and see if any

changes/additions need to be made.

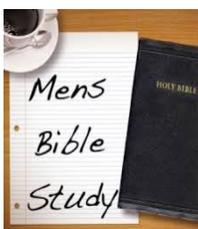
We would like to include anyone thinking about becoming a member of St. Matthew's.



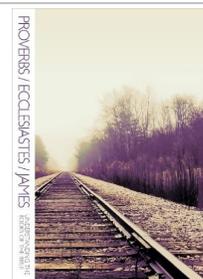
Adult Bible Study

Rev. Bill's bible study has been delving into the book of Jeremiah. Feel free to join the class anytime! They meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month for an hour and alternates Wednesdays with Women's Bible Study.

The Women's bible study also continues through October meeting the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 7:00-8:30 PM. We have been reading daily devotions from, *Finding Your Dream*, in preparation for our discussions together. Contact Lyn Rich with any questions.



All men are welcome to come Friday mornings 7:30 AM, in the counting room. We fellowship for about 15 minutes, then dig into the book and wrap up with prayer by 8:30. We will be using the book, "Proverbs/Ecclesiastes/James (Understanding the Books of the Bible)," by Christopher R. Smith. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Capasso (697-1945; jcapasso1@yahoo.com).



Activity Group



Join us for the next luncheon meeting on Thursday, October 20, 12 noon, in the Fellowship Hall.

All meals will be prepared by St. Matthew's with a free will offering. Let Sue Rich know if you are coming so she can plan for the food (574-5865).

Come all and bring a friend!

November 17: Join us for our THANKSGIVING GET-TOGETHER!

Lunch will be provided: hot turkey sandwiches. We will do a mission project of stuffing gym socks for the homeless.

December 15: CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

Come enjoy great music and entertainment.

St. Matthews Senior High Youth Group

will be taking the teachings from our church and applying them to the outside world through mission work! Our Youth Group will go out into the community monthly and perform a community service. A mission trip for the summer of 2017 is being planned, and our Youth Group will be fundraising to join! This will be a fun-filled year!

John Mion will be the Senior High Youth Group advisor. He is the former Vice President of the Board of Directors for Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center (DCC). He also spent 10 summers as a counselor for Senior High Camp at DCC. John has coached the East Aurora Varsity Wrestling Team for the past 8 seasons. He brings a wealth of knowledge in aiding teenagers to achieve their greatest potential through goal setting and hard work.

On October 15, they will be going to Dunkirk for a Halloween party.

John Mion: 716-997-6254 or gmivion@hotmail.com.



By Tammy Kruszka, BCE President

Sunday School is underway, and how exciting our "New Beginnings" are! We are grateful for the visions God is giving us, and to see them begin to fall into place is exciting and rewarding. Rally Day was a huge success, thanks to the vision and leadership of Margie Phillips. We are very thankful to her for seeing through the plans that God revealed to her.

Our thanks go out to Rev. Bill for supporting us, sharing in our vision, and helping bring it to reality. At 9:15 AM, Rev. Bill starts out our Sunday School classes with all ages gathering in the Fellowship Hall for a message, music and tithing, before heading off to their classrooms to expand on the lesson he presents.

We are also thankful to our teachers who are volunteering their time and talents for God's children. We are incredibly grateful to Dennis Phillips, Adult Class; Joe Capasso & Holly Dobrick, High School Class; Michelle Kemp and Joann Ertel, Middle School Class; Margie Phillips & Beth Stormer, Elementary Class.

Most importantly, thank you to the parents who bring us their children, trusting us with their most precious gifts from God! As a committee focused on Christian Education, we ask that our families be patient while we get to know each other again, and as we work to coordinate programs to benefit all children.

In closing, whether you're a parent of a student or a member of our congregation, we are here for you, and we want to hear from you. Please reach out to any of our committee members with any thoughts, ideas or concerns. We are joyfully, at your service.

Board of Christian Education - Tammy Kruszka, Michelle Kemp, Jeff Rich, Shirley Stickler, Diane Miltz, Don McMillan, Margie Phillips & Rev. Bill.

CHILD CARE is in need of gently used items for the child care room. We are in need of puppets, trucks & cars, dolls, kids kitchen items, dress up clothing. Please see Tammy Kruszka if you have items you wish to donate.



Church Council Highlights

The parking lot reconstruction is underway! On Wednesday, September 21, the crew began excavation of the driveway and lot. The remainder of this week, targeted areas will be dug up and then filled before Sunday. Beginning Monday, September 26, paving will begin and the entire lot and driveways must not be driven on for the entire week. The lot should be accessible again on Sunday, October 2. Please check your email for any updates. Meetings scheduled at the church the week of September 26th will need to be held in other locations.

There will be a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 23RD** immediately after the service, so please mark your calendars and plan on attending. We will vote on the nominations for open positions on Council, Spiritual Life, Mission and BCE, as well as the Nominating Committee. We will also review and vote to approve all annual reports and the 2017 budget.

Annual reports are due to the office by Friday, October 7th.



Hospitality Committee

In years past, St. Matthew's had a Fellowship Committee that did some great things for our church family. Now it's coming back under a new name called the Hospitality Committee and we hope to carry on the same great tradition. My name is LaDonna Painter and as the Hospitality President I would first like to thank everyone who stopped by our table at the Rally kick-off on Sunday, September 11th. We had signup sheets for greeters, coffee hour hosts, caregivers for meals and volunteers to help with upcoming events. Thank you to everyone who signed up and we are always looking for more volunteers.

I would like to introduce you to the other committee members. Dan Barrett, Darlene Nistor, Tracy Majewski and Rev. Bill Shroust. Also, Lyn Rich and Robin Federmann have graciously volunteered to be the committee's contacts to handle the Funeral related concerns. Steve Jankowski will also be a valued contact for the committee with any concerns our issues that we might come across. Thank you to Dave Burger who will also be a valued contact for any usher concerns. Thank you to Sue Rich who will be coordinating caregiver meals.

Stay tuned for future information for upcoming activities and events.

Again, I would like to thank the committee members and our valued committee contacts for their time and support as we start this adventure.

LaDonna Painter
Hospitality President
(716-646-1506)

A special thank you to Karen Kaitanowski for many years of devoted and compassionate service to the church family coordinating caregiving needs.

*** A special thank you to Margie Phillips for organizing the Rally kick off***

ST. MATTHEW'S UCC, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM IS UP AND RUNNING... *Margie Phillips*

Last month on September 11th, we held our Rally Day as a 'Church Wide' event. It started off in the fellowship hall with a long registration table with more than 20 options of ways to get involved here at St. Matthew's. Whether you signed up to host a coffee fellowship, greet people before entering Sunday worship service, join a group... like praise band, choir or even an usher team to name a few; including signing up to volunteer with our Christian Ed. classes as a helper or even a student (youth & adults)... We Thank You!

The success of starting fresh with 'New Beginnings,' is Christ-driven. Where all the people that come to worship here, and the people that want to lead our church is truly up to us all. Many of these sign-up sheets were filled up for the next couple of months. Still, there are needs to be met. Please seek out where your talents can be used throughout the church. I'm sure as these groups and committees meet up in October, they will be praying to fill in the gaps of volunteers needed. You might even get a call. I know for a fact that many things are being tweaked in our Christian Ed. program as we start off the new 2016-2017 school year.

I look forward in prayer that all programs here are being led spiritually as we meet the needs of all the families that enter St. Matthew's as a house of worship... God's house! That we will be asking ourselves that simple question, "W.W.J.D." (What Would Jesus Do!) Then see where you and your family best fits here, at St. Matthew's UCC, and then put your talents to work for God!

Continued on next page...

As a reminder to all students, you may enroll at any time to join a Sunday school class; but why miss out, join in ASAP! Please turn in enrollment cards to your teachers. Sunday school classes are held each week at 9:15–10:15am... finishing up in time for worship service. All K-12th grade students/teachers start off in the fellowship hall with Rev. Bill.

Our first class started on September 18th where Rev. Bill touched on the biblical topic of 'Creation', we learned some scripture, a student read from the bible and we were led in memory verse through song. Pastor reminded the students and teachers about the importance of 'tithing'. Starting off the students with an example of how to do it, and why! Stating this must be done out of prayer. That what happens to our tithing gifts are from us to God! Rev. Bill shared with us that our gifts truly are for God's use. Then ending in prayer!

Students then go off to their classrooms: *K-5th (2nd floor, F.R.O.G. room, across from restrooms.) *MS 6th–8th (classroom near fellowship hall) *HS 9th-12th (closest to back door) *Adult class (Parlor - room right off the back of the sanctuary.) They started watching the book of Matthew on DVD, followed by group discussion, which was very successful with 13+ students there on the 18th.

I want to end in closing by saying just how blessed I feel to have had my family a part of St. Matthew's for almost 27 years. Yet I'm saddened to inform all the congregational members here that this is my last written words as the Director of Christian Education. Although St. Matthew's is truly blessed to be led by Rev. Dr. William ShROUT, we are being called away from our church home. Our friendships will remain, true and close to our hearts, that's a fact.

Thank you all for your kind thoughts and prayers over those years, and we also will be equaling thinking of all of you. As we continuing pray for to you all.

In Christ, Margie Phillips

Parking Lot/Driveway Fundraisers

As you know, we are presently having our parking lot and driveways repaired, resurfaced and relined. We need to raise funds to offset this cost. If you would like to assist in the fundraising projects, or have any suggestions on how to raise these funds, please contact Steve Jankowski (826-0012 or snjank@msn.com).



CIA Dates to Remember:

- October 20: 20th Anniversary Gala (left)
 - November 3-6: Christmas In The Country fundraiser
 - December 4: Christmas Caroling
- Watch for more information from our CIA Reps, Howard Rich and Tom Schaner.

Churches In Action ... A Simple Way to Serve

United Church Manor's Annual Theme Basket Luncheon will be on Saturday, November 5, at The Columns Banquets. Doors open at 11 AM. The proceeds will benefit the United Church Manor's Senior Programs. To learn more about the tickets, registration deadline, or if you'd like to donate, please see the flyer and donation form on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall. *-Nancy Jankowski*

St. Matthew's UCC

5289 McKinley Parkway
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Pastor:

The Rev. Dr. William B. Shrou, Jr.
1-336-596-1868
revdrbillshrou@yahoo.com
In office: Mon. 9am-2pm &
Wed. 9-11am
Parsonage: 4388 Richwood Drive

Director of Music:

Norman D. Wahl
716-440-5176
normwahl@gmail.com

Director of Christian Education:

Margie Phillips
716-467-1085
bcestmatt@verizon.net
In office: Wednesday 9-11am

Administrative Assistant:

Michelle Kemp
Office: 649-1532
In office: Mon. & Wed. 9am-2pm,
Thurs. 9-12, & Fri. 12:30-3:30pm

Custodians:

Pamela & David Kaznica**

Change to cell phones only.

716-913-6927 (David)
716-913-7504 (Pamela)

Church Council President:

Howard Rich
716-863-8636
hrich@rich.com

Friends of Night People

Sign up for Wednesday, October 5,
to serve at the FoNP mission.
Questions? Contact Tom Schaner at
998-3138.

Collection bins are in the hallway
near the Fellowship Hall for
children's books, clothing, toiletries.

Monthly Food Drive

On the first Sunday of the month, we welcome you to bring in nonperishable food items for the UPC Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry in Blasdell.
If you'd like to take a turn delivering the food during the week, sign up on the bulletin board.

**2017 Calendars**

Dick & Shirley Jones are once again collecting calendars for local nursing homes or veterans. Please put your donation in the box on the coat rack by the back door.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people.

Want to be part of the Stephen Minister Training Class? This is a wonderful opportunity for you to grow in faith, develop stronger relational skills, and bring Christ's love into the lives of hurting people. We're excited to continue and expand our Stephen Ministry with an upcoming training class offered through the Wesleyan Church starting October 12. For more information, contact Lyn Rich or Cheryl Larson.

Caregivers

Do you or someone you know need a Caregiver service—a ride to a doctor's appointment? a home cooked meal? house or yard work? Call LaDonna Painter or the church office.

If you are interested in being a caregiver, please fill out a form found on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall or call LaDonna.

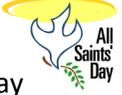
Support Through Prayer

Circle Prayer - Join in the circle of prayer at 9am in the Parlor. (Sunday School classes follow at 9:15.)

Prayer Chain - Call Rev. Bill (336-596-1868), Dolly Errington (823-6210), Jane Duewiger (649-2085) or text Lyn Rich (863-8636) to begin the chain of texts/phone calls to those committed to pray when they receive the request. Text/call Lyn if you'd like to be a link in the prayer chain.

October 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  Sunday School 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM HS YOUTH GROUP 6 PM	3	4 BCE 7:00 PM	5 AA 10:30 AM Friends of Night People  Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM	6 Praise Band 6:15 Choir 7:00 PM OA 7:30 PM	7 <i>annual reports due</i>  Men's Bible Study 7:30 AM	8 Bieger Baptism 10 AM
9 Sunday School 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM	10	11 Stephen Ministry 4 PM Council 7 PM	12 AA 10:30 AM  Adult Bible Study 7pm	13 Praise Band 6:15 Choir 7:00 PM CIA 7:00 PM OA 7:30 PM	14  Men's Bible Study 7:30 AM	15 Senior High Youth Group (Dunkirk CCC)
16 Sunday School 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM HS YOUTH GROUP 6 PM	17	18	19 AA 10:30 AM  Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM	20 <i>Messenger Info Due</i> Activity Group 12 Noon Praise Band 6:15 Choir 7:00 PM OA 7:30 PM	21  Men's Bible Study 7:30 AM	22 Teacher Training (Rochester)
23 Sunday School 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM ANNUAL MTG	24 Spiritual Life 6:30 PM	25 Stephen Ministry 4:00 PM	26 AA 10:30 AM  Adult Bible Study 7pm	27 Praise Band 6:15 Choir 7:00 PM	28  Men's Bible Study 7:30 AM	29
30  Sunday School 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM	31					

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
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Website: stmattsucc.org
Our church building is fully accessible.

No matter where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here!